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Friends and family of Rafael
Bustamante to set up microfinance, cancer care foundations in his honor
SUNDAY BIZ / B1

Architecture board
cracking down on high-profile but undiscussed architects
LIFESTYLE / C1

Foremost designer Auggie
Gardens on the process of creation and finding key to happiness
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

JOB
Running in circles?
Build a career with a company that can get you places

Pink Kitchen gives
diners on Aug. 11-12 a rare chance to taste the famous specialties of celebrity chefs while boosting breast cancer survivors. Talk about guilt-free bingeing!
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

CITY ON SCALING HILLS: Baguio on a monsoon night is picturesque, its twists and turns defined by lights swarming through its inhabited spaces. And in the darkness, one doesn't see that the pine trees are gone.

Meralco cuts rates by 43¢

Reduced generation charges, systems loss cited

By Abigail L. Mu...Business

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS OF THE MANILA ELECTRIC Co. will see their bills go down by 43 centavos per kilowatt-hour this month, mainly due to a reduction in generation and system loss charges.

Eric Gesa, Meralco vice president for corporate communications, said the distribution utility's generation charge fell by 37.86 centavos per kWh, while its system loss charge declined by 5.08 centavos per kWh.

Last month, residential customers were billed a generation charge of P5.6764 per kWh and a system loss charge of 90 centavos.

With the reductions, the generation charge for residential customers will be P5.2978 per kWh, while the system loss charge will be 84.79 centavos per kWh beginning this month.

As a result of these reductions, firms and residential customers consuming 1000 kWh or less each month would see an almost P35 drop in their monthly bills.

Those consuming 200 kWh will experience a P91 reduction, he said.

Meralco's commercial and industrial customers will also enjoy rate reductions but the Meralco official did not give any details.

Meralco, which is part of the Lopez group of companies, distributes electricity to more than 4 million customers, made up of residential and commercial consumers.

Gesa said there were a number of factors that helped to bring down the power distributor's rates in July, resulting in the lower rates beginning August.

For one, the average rate of the state-owned power generator National Power Corp., which supplies 58 percent of Meralco's supply requirements, fell by 45 centavos to P5.19 per kWh.

The cost of power supplied by Meralco's independent power producers also went down by 21 centavos to P4.00 per kWh, following the completion of Quezon Power (Phil.)'s scheduled maintenance work and the higher efficiencies achieved by First Gen Power Corp.'s San Lorenzo power plant.

Meralco sources 47 percent of its to-

MERALCO B1

Politics goes retro: It's NP vs LP in 2010

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE POLITICS COULD BE going retro with the country's oldest political parties—the Liberal Party and the Nacionalista Party—emerging as the likely main protagonists in the 2010 presidential elections.

The two parties are in the process of positioning and rebuilding to recover their past glory and both are led by two young(ish) politicians whose wealth and ambition are entering a presidential buzz around them early.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, 50, now leads the Liberal Party founded in 1946 by his grandfather and namesake, Manuel Roxas, the first President of the Third Philippine Republic.

Senate President Manuel Villar, 57, heads the Nacionalista Party, which can lay claim to having dominated Philippine politics from its pre-independence beginnings in 1907 until it went into hibernation during the martial law years.

From 1946 until 1972 when the

POLITICS A2

4 teachers are 'the few to inspire the many'

By Tara Quimundo

IN A RARE AND MODEST MOMENT, four educators and their 108 years of teaching experience, thousands of hours of paperwork and countless students on the blackboard were honored on Thursday to inspire more than half a million others who toil on the nation's classrooms.

After months of a meticulous selection process, middle teacher Rosyln Santiago of Nueva Ecija, special education teacher Elsa Grullo, Dance of Graduate City philosophy professor Fr. Roque Angel Fortich of the Ateneo de Manila University and journalism professor Luis Teodoro of the University of the Philippines

TEACHERS A4

"IT'S TIME TO PRAY:" one of the paintings on exhibit at St. Scholastica's Archives-Museum III and of August

Art of widow in yellow kicks off Ninoy month

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"THE EXHIBIT REMEMBERS THE man who mobilized a nation and features the art of the woman who healed it."

This blurb on the invitation sums up the spirit behind the exhibit of former President Corazon C. Aquino's favorite paintings. The exhibit's opening on Aug. 2 marked the beginning of a series of August commemorations of the death of her husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, who was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1983.

Aquino's dozen paintings are on exhibit till the end of August at the newly inaugurated St. Scholastica's Archives-Museum along D. Dasmariñas Street (formerly Vito Cruz) corner Leon Guinto. Varsity, a choir made

ART OF WIDOW A4

A chair's not just chair in the Senate

By Dona Pazzibugan

WHOEVER SAID "A CHAIR IS just a chair" had never been to the Senate.

While assured of getting the major Senate committees, since administration senators also want to contest five of the 12 seats available to them in the Sacramental Commission on Appointments (CA).

However, other senators insist

A CHAIR'S A5

Art, music heal as PGH celebrates centennial

By Hilda Dizon

HERE IS ONE WORTHY OCCASION for an exposition on healing grace.

The Philippine General Hospital, proud of its history as the "poor man's hospital," is marking its centennial this month by turning its drab hallways into "miniature galleries" for prized artworks and launching a P1-million fund-raising drive for its needlest patients.

On Aug. 17—exactly 100 years since the law creating the PGH was passed by the Philippine Commission under the US colonial government—the state-run institution will unveil its "Art and Medicine" project featuring works by artists from the University of the Philippines led by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

Later in the day recording artist Gary Valenciano will star in a benefit concert for the PGH charity patients' emergency fund. It will be the highlight of the centennial celebration's gala night at the Manila Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

"Paintings and music can help improve the healing, not to mention the working, environment of a hospital," Dr. Armand Crisostomo, chair of the PGH centennial celebration committee, told the Inquirer.

By marking Abueva and other visual masterpieces part of its healing environ, the PGH is most likely the first hospital in the country to combine the healing sciences with the soothing pleasures of art, Crisostomo said.

He said the PGH had treated millions of people, mostly indigent, with a quality of service approaching that of first-class private hospitals.

And the Filipino medical community would agree that the PGH offers the best training for its students, produc-

ART A6

'Miracle:' Death toll from US bridge collapse still stands at 5; more than 100 vehicles, including a school bus, were on the span when it fell into the Mississippi River
WORLD / A24

Josh Hartnett in Diwalwal: Davao's mining village is a veggie-producing area so the vegan from Hollywood feels right at home
ENTERTAINMENT / F1

US State Department report: Major obstacles hinder RP from building effective terrorism cases vs suspects
NEWS / A2

Hunk flees from lies, fetuses, forgets his date
ENTERTAINMENT / F2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2007

6/42 LOTTO
16 10 | 2 9 0 7 3 0
6/49 SUPERLOTTO 6/45
5 5 9 | 7 4 4
6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
2 5 14 26 37 42
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WEATHER FORECAST

2006 COUNTRY REPORT

US cites obstacles in RP fight vs terror

By Cynthia D. Baizas

DESPITE SOME SUCCESSES IN NEUTRALIZING terrorist leaders, major evidentiary and procedural obstacles in the Philippines hinder the building of cases against suspected terrorists, according to the 2006 "US Country Reports on Terrorism."

The report, prepared by the US Department of State, said a large and growing case backlog and the absence of consistent trials against terrorists in the Philippines were impediments to the prosecution of suspected terrorists.

It also urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to speed up the implementation of a dignified machine-readable passport system that would help deter terrorist activities in any part of the world.

"While the Philippines cooperated with US requests for prosecution of persons who had tampered with or altered travel documents, the prosecutions carried low level penalties for those convicted of such fraud," the report said.

The same report took note of the "reluctance" to investigate or charge vendors or users of false documents in the country. Under Philippine law, the terror suspect must have presented the fraudulent document to a government authority in order for a crime to have been committed.

The annual country reports provide an assessment of terrorism worldwide. They aim to inform, to stimulate debate and enhance collective understanding of the global terrorist threat.

Reference tools

Frank C. Urbancic, acting coordinator for counterterrorism at the Department of State, said the country reports should serve as reference tools to inform policy makers, the American public and US international partners about US efforts, progress and challenges in the war on terror.

The 2006 report included an annual assessment of trends and the nature of the terrorist threat, terrorist safe havens, regional overviews and reports on the terrorist situation in individual countries, and discussions on the global challenge of weapons of mass destruction and the terrorists.

It said the Philippines, one of the earliest supporters of the War on Terror, continued to be battered and multifaceted counterterrorism efforts despite the obstacles listed earlier.

In August last year, the Armed Forces of the Philippines launched "Operation Ultimatum," a concerted effort to capture or kill the top Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) operatives in Jolo.

It said the operation was fought by successful as a number of ASG and JI members had been captured or killed since its inception.

Latest offensive against Abu, says AFP

ISABELA CITY, BASILAN—THE Armed Forces of the Philippines launched Operation Ultimatum (Justice) here on Friday but maintained that the offensive had nothing to do with the ambush in Albatka town on July 31, which killed 14 Marines, 11 of whom were beheaded.

Brig. Gen. Ananias Solitan, Task Force 101 commander, said the military operation was aimed at decimating the remaining forces of the bandit group, Abu Sayyaf, in Basilan and was not directed against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The MILF had said its forces were involved in the Albatka ambush—which it described as a legitimate encounter—but denied its fighters had beheaded the Fallen Marines.

"It is not connected for the simple reason that we are responsible in the beheading and mutilation of our soldiers. The troops are directed to pursue remaining members and probably beat on of the Abu Sayyaf," Solitan asserted.

Solitan said the military had received reports Abu Sayyaf leader Jainlon Hajilon "might have dipped out of Sulu" and was hiding in Basilan.

Another is also on the trail of Islamic Dai of terrorists and seeking a bounty of $5 million. The Philippine government also offered 10 million for his capture, dead or alive.

Solitan said he the manhunt for the remaining forces of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and for it also involved at least five Malaysian and two Army battalions.

Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar said the deployment of a large number of troops was executive because only a few Abu Sayyaf bandits remained on the island.

Solitan said that aside from hunting down the Abu Sayyaf, the military planned to provide support to police authorities who were given the go-signal to serve a search and arrest on the suspects in the Albatka incident.

"Whether the court's list includes more than a hundred or fewer (Abu Sayyaf), numbers are immaterial now," Solitan said. (Aida S. Alipala, with a report from Jeoffrey Maitem, *Inquirer* Mindanao)

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Church group lauds US solons for calling for end to killings

By Jerome Aning

A LOCAL EPISCOPATE ORGANIZATION yesterday welcomed the letter written by United States congressmen to President Macapagal-Arroyo calling for an end to the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances in the Philippines.

The Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines also vowed to step up its lobbying efforts in the US Senate and House of Representatives to step up action on the human rights situation in the Philippines.

Fr. Joe Ukleto, one of the conveners of the movement, said the US lawmakers' action showed the Arroyo administration was not doing enough to address the human rights crisis in the country.

Wake-up call

"The letter was another wake-up call for President Arroyo and she should follow one of the recommendations in the (recent) summit called by Chief Justice Reynato Puno: To order the military and the police to stop the killings," Ukleto said.

Another convener, Fr. Dan Reyes of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, said Protestant churches and Filipino communities in the United States would continue with their lobbying efforts to ensure that the proposal to the US Congress to slash American foreign military financing to the Philippines by fiscal year 2008 would push through.

Victory for survivors

"If the US pushes through with this recommendation, this will be a major victory for the kith and kin of victims of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations perpetrated by Philippine state security forces," Reyes said.

Dawn said Americans appalled by the human rights situation in the Philippines played "a very big role" in lobbying their congressmen to do something about the spate of killings, which included that of about 20 church people in the Philippines.

Reyes, for his part, said churches in the Philippines should emulate their counterparts in the US.

During a meeting of United Methodist groups in Virginia Beach on July 15-19, members of the Methodist Federation of Filipino American United Methodists approved a resolution urging Washington to condition continued foreign aid to the Philippines based on the country's compliance with addressing concerns on the abuse of human rights.

Bhavna Dave Dayanandan, UCCP secretary general, and United Methodist Bishop Rolf to Tupaen of the Manila Episcopal Area spoke on the human rights situation to the participants.

House bill to guard vs checkpoint abuse

By Norman Bordadora

MUNTINLUPA CITY REP. ROZ. ramo Rufino Biazon has filed a bill calling for the regulation of military and police checkpoints in the country.

The recent implementation of the Human Security Act and the decision of the Supreme Court upholding the authority of the military or police to set up checkpoints "makes it imperative for Congress to enact a law that will safeguard the defined constitutional rights of the people against unreasonable searches or seizures," Biazon said in a statement.

Biazon's House Bill No. 84 provides that no checkpoint should be maintained except under exceptional circumstances, such as when there is a clear and present danger to national security, public safety or health.

"If the checkpoints have no proper application for a warrant, those checkpoints should have no effect. Warrants to install checkpoints should be issued by competent authorities and the issuance of warrants to install checkpoints should be the same," Biazon said.

Police or military units that put up checkpoints would have to coordinate with the local government concerned and furnish them with a copy of pertinent documents, said Biazon.

"In the absence of a warrant or mission order, checkpoint personnel shall limit the scope of their inquiry to visual inspection and ascertain the identity and other personal circumstances of the person or vehicle being inspected," he said.

On the other hand, checkpoints personnel have the right to ascertain the identity of a vehicle's registered owner. Inviting the seizure of illegally contraband or other prohibited goods or items in plain view may be seized by checkpoint personnel.

Biazon also wants the issuance order to install and maintain checkpoints and its guidelines and procedures to be posted at the city hall or municipal building, public market and at the checkpoints itself. Pertinent documents should also be made available for the scrutiny of any person affected.

Biazon said checkpoints personnel undergo training in assisting checkpoints as well as in human relations.

Shell, LPG marketers raise prices by 56¢/kg

By Abigail L. Ho

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp. raised the price of its Shellane liquefied petroleum gas (or Gas) by 56 centavos a kilogram, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax.

The oil firm implemented the price hike at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

A day earlier, the LPG Marketers Association also raised prices by the same level.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international contract price for LPG rose to $699.50 per metric ton (MT) this month from $589 per MT in July.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have shot up by a total of P9.92 a kilo, but they have also gone down seven times for a total of P1.50 a kilo, including VAT.

The latest increase brought prices of 11 kilogram LPG cylinders to between P474.28 and P526.79.

Fuel prices are also expected to increase in the coming weeks, as international oil prices continue to escalate.

Mark Yu, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, said all firms actually had to increase at least another P1 a liter in the coming weeks, following its 56 centavo-a-liter price hike the other weekend.

He said that the regional benchmark Dubai crude averaged more than $61 a barrel high-er in July compared with June, placing the oil firms' under-recoveries at around P1.80 a liter.

According to the industry chief, the country's first major increase in international prices should translate to an equivalent increase of around 35 centavos a liter at the pump.

In the case the pass is imposing, however, the said oil companies might be able to absorb some under-recoveries with just another 50 centavos-a-liter increase instead of a supposed P1-a-liter hike.

Gov't doctor wins ₱1,000 in case that cost ₱200,000

By Alec V. Pai
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—A GOVERNMENT DOCTOR who said his spouse almost P500,000 to pay one his complaints of libel against a radio broadcaster was awarded P1,000 by the court after it found the broadcaster guilty of calling the doctor a "crocodile" and saying he had "no pity."

Judge Teresita Abarquez Gadomala of Negros Oriental Regional Trial Court Branch 35, in a resolution dated May 31, 2007 but released only on Friday, ruled that broadcaster Esteban "Steve" Gabriel was guilty of libel for the comments he uttered against Negros Oriental provincial health officer Dr. Dante Dumdago in his April 11, 2000, radio program over dyHB Radio-Chay Inter.

The court did not explain the low fine. The most said she P10,000 demanded by Dumdago in attorney's fees could not be granted because no receipts were presented to prove that the amount was actually paid.

Both Gabriel and Dumdago said they would not appeal the ruling.

Shocked by the low fine, Dumdago said that even if the court fined him only P1,000, Gabriel could lose the chance of ever working in government again, running for public office and, possibly, lose his accreditation with the Kapisanang mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas.

The case stemmed from Gabriel's reading on the air of unaltered and unsworn affidavits of "Inconia Baldoza and Primo Lagrama that charged that Dumdago, then head trauma surgeon at the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital here, had charged them P60,000 to operate on Baldoza's baby. Baldoza alleged that her husband's commitment outside ran of deepen over his inability to raise the money.

After reading the complaints, Gabriel commented that the doctor was "a crocodile" and had "no pity."

But Dumdago said he did not charge for the successful three-hour operation that saved the life of Baldoza's baby.

The court threw out Gabriel's contention that he acted on a matter of serious public concern. The judge ruled that reading unsworn affidavits did not give the privileged communication and that Gabriel acted with malevolent hate and made unrelated and defamatory comments without first ascertaining whether the allegations were true.

Breast-feeding best for mothers, too, experts say

By Allison W. Lopez

BREASTFEEDING IS BEST FOR babies—and for their moms, too, several doctors visiting breast-feeding expert.

"Mothers[, too, have] off-colostrum, go back to the pre-pregnancy state much more quickly, and have a lower risk of getting chronic diseases such as diabetes," said Dr. Howard Sobel of the World Health Organization (WHO) which is working with the Department of Health to promote breast-feeding in the country.

To mark the first day of World Breast-feeding Week promoting several artists painted mother-and-child murals on the walls of the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital as a way of paying homage and reminding Filipino mothers of this ancient practice which is in decline worldwide.

According to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, breast-feeding rates in these countries are at a meager 16 percent.

"The reason for it is that the supply of breast milk substitutes has been very successful," said Duque.

Manufacturers of infant formula are spending millions of dollars to promote their products, said this last led many mothers to believe that breast milk substitutes are better than the real thing, he said.

"There's no truth to this. Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for babies. We will intensify our program and continue to encourage mothers to breast-feed up to two years," the health secretary said.

"Breast-feeding is not only for babies but for mothers as well. They will be at lower risk for diseases like breast cancer, ovarian cancers and benign," he said.

Alfred Gabriel, the leader of the artists' group, said the colorful and number exhibitions would help in reaching the "huge audience" aware of the benefits of breast-feeding.

Misinformation

According to Sobel, the reasons that new mothers give for not breast-feeding are prompted by misinformation.

The most common reason stated in worldwide surveys is that they "did not have enough milk."

Even another false enough milk, it's wrong to think that the amount of milk can be measured by breast size, Sobel said.

He recalled arguing with his one-wife who claimed she did not have sufficient milk.

"I said 'How do you know you don't have enough [when] milk?' Well, my breasts aren't big enough... the breast milk hasn't come in, she said. I replied, how big do you think a newborn's stomach is?"

The size of a fist, most mothers would say like us, said Sobel, it's as tiny as half a thumb.

"Any mother can breast-feed, whether her breasts are small or big. It's a supply and demand issue. The more baby sucks, the more breast milk is made," he said, adding that stimulation was all that was needed to produce more milk.

Another myth is that breast-feeding will mean the breasts sagging, according to Sobel, who said that the figures of mothers who breast-feed return to pre-pregnancy levels.

Breast-feeding causes contractions in the uterus where size is reduced more quickly which is how breast-feeding mothers "can lose their belly," Sobel said.

Correct positioning

But during breast-feeding can be combated by correct positioning.

"When you position the baby correctly, the pain disappears. It's not a hundred percent but a vast majority has this. My wife enjoyed breast-feeding. At the end of two years she requested having to give it up," said Sobel.

Sobel also cited studies correlating breast-feeding with intelligence.

"Breastfed kids are smarter. They score three to five IQ points smarter, according to 23 to 24 studies I looked at," he said.

He noted how several celebrities has influenced breast-feeding rates in the United States which also caused low levels of breast-feeding.

"Today, they are less likely to breast-feed, but in the [US] it's the poor who are less likely to breast-feed. It used to be the other way around, but as the benefits of breast-feeding became widely known in the US, this switched.

"If these celebrated the same trend, then people would see that it is normal. This started to flow, the people with more access to information started reading all it. And so our breast-feeding has picked up among the rich people," he said.

He said having business lifestyle enhancers and interior designers Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Cheche Lazaro breast-feeding disproved the notion that working mothers can't breast-feed because of time constraints.

"Even working mothers can continue to breast-feed. Tessa did that amazing thing... she exclusively breastfed for nine months and continued to give a full post, which is quite remarkable for someone so busy as she is," he said.

He said mothers can leave breast milk for the baby when they go to work as breast milk can be stored for eight hours at room temperature, and 24 hours when refrigerated.

Meralco cuts rates by 43¢

From page B-1

ial supply requirements from these IPP affiliates which also belong to the Lopez group.

According to Cuna, the reduction in the charges of Napocor and the IPPs mitigated the impact of the rising cost of power sold in the wholesale electricity spot market where Meralco sources 15 percent of its supply.

The WESM price for the last trading month was placed at P9.5489 per kWh, even higher than the previous month's P7.7981 per kWh.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires distribution utilities to get at least 10 percent of their supply requirements from the WESM.

Power from Napocor

Last month, Meralco reduced the amount of power it bought from the electricity "boxtrot, opting to get most of its requirements from Napocor.

On July 19, Napocor and Meralco signed an addendum to their power supply contract, agreeing to increase the amount of energy that the distribution utility was contracting to buy from Napocor by another 1,020 gigawatt hours a year.

Then Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and Meralco said at the time that the move would shield Meralco customers from the volatility of the spot market and result in lower electricity rates.

According to Cuna, the Energy Regulatory Commission is filing an application for suspension of Meralco's automatic generation rate adjustment (ARA) mechanism which enabled the company to more readily reflect the lower cost of electricity to its customers.

In September 2000, the ERC suspended Meralco's automatic adjustment of the generation charge, a pass-through cost that distribution utilities are allowed to collect from customers. Any delay in the electricity rate decrease would be subject to a cold lower charges results in refunds to be called "under-recoveries. At the end of July, Meralco reported P13.3 billion worth of generation-related charges that it had to recover from customers.

Pass on to customers

Meralco is also allowed to pass on to customers system loss—whether due to illegal connections or others—below 9.5 percent. This allows up to customers' monthly electricity bills to reflect loss charges. Losses beyond the 9.5 percent cap have to be absorbed by the company.

In April, Meralco reported a system loss of 10.10 percent in 2006, its lowest in 23 years, allowing it to cut its generally purchased power rates by P83 million.

Safety Recall

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or

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To be posted through February 2008

Fisher-Price

Politics goes retro: It's back to NP vs LP in 2010 election

From page B-1

martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos abolished elections, the NP and the LP effectively reused power to the country, with one or the other taking the presidency.

But while today's NP and LP could arguably lay claim to having leaders of "presidential timbre," the country's biggest political party Lakas-CMD, still holds the key to which candidate would have the edge in 2010 because of its vast and well-entrenched network, its resources and its basic control experience, having managed to retain its dominance through three administrations.

Going for No. 1

But not for long if Villar, who has perhaps a real estate fortune into high political office, had his way.

"The SP is planning to be No. 1 again and it is determined to become one of the two biggest parties in the whole country in the next few years. Just watch out for the NP and LP then."

He said he expected the public's interest in the SP to soar this year as the party would be celebrating its centennial.

"This is a very important year for [the] SP which is the first [party] in the Philippines," said Villar.

According to Nacionalista Party, which was formally constituted on April 29, 1907, was preceded by the pro-American Federalista Party of 1901, a party of the Filipino elite which was actively promoted by the US colonial administration.

Though Villar really deserves plaus for 2010 ("That's still far off, we should first talk about the hardship of our countrymen"), his intense maneuvering is be construed as Senate President in the 14th Congress is seen as a prelude to his run for the highest office in the land.

Grand Old Party

But the Grand Old Party, as the NP was once known, has yet to recover from its splintering in the martial law years. Marcos, originally a Liberal who jumped to the Nacionalista Party to propel his ambition to be President, formed the Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan which became established as the dominant party. But many KBL members professed to be Nacionalista.

The LP being the party of the opposition, has a claim to having opposed the dictatorship. Many of its leaders and members were prosecuted, persecuted and even killed during the martial law regime, the most prominent of which is the martyred LP leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr.

While the NP is wooing nostalgic, its traditional rival, the LP has been slowly rebuilding its membership the past few years. In fact, it has become newly relevant, with the Commission on Elections recognizing it as the dominant minority party in the 2007 elections and a number of its members winning key elective posts.

"Bearing in mind the history of the LP we intend to build not just a big party but a strong principled party. We in the party believe that our people are our greatest strength. This is why we all agreed on a grassroots agenda to put people first," said Roxas.

LP revival

Roxas can very well speak like the builder of the LP franchise, being the grandson of its founder. His grandfather, Manuel Roxas, wishing to challenge President Sergio Osmeña for the presidency, split from the Nacionalista Party and formed the Liberal Party from the so-called "liberal" wing of the NP in 1946.

Roxas is just as cagey when asked about his plans for 2010. But there's no mistaking that "Roxas for President in 2010" has been gathering steam. For one, the LP revived its dormant website (www.lp.ph), reminding that the bulk of the voting population is aged 35 years and below.

Roxas for President spots are also sprouting in cyberspace (www.manuelroxas2010.blogspot.com and www.liberalpresident2010.blogspot.com).

Several colleagues are already endorsing him as the party's standard bearer—Sen. Benigno Aquino III has declared him the LP candidate for 2010 and LP chair emeritus Jovito Salonga recently introduced him as "the next President of the Philippine Republic."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 5, 2007
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Seek what is above, where Christ is.

In short, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sin, vice, wicked desires and greed which is a way of worshipping idols.

Do not lie to one another. You have been stripped of the old self and its way of thinking; so put on the new self, which is being renewed and is in search of true knowledge and the likeness of its creator. There is no room for distinction between Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, foreigner, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel:

Jesus said to them, "Watch and guard yourselves from all greed; for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist in possessions." Then he told them a parable, "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? For I am short of room to store my harvest.' He said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones to store all my grain and my goods. Then I will say to myself, "You have many good things stored up for many years; relax, eat, drink and enjoy yourself." But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' So it is with those who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in the sight of God."

Commentary:

We have wisdom from the era of Solomon (with wisdom that is synonymous for wealth of people). It is rather pessimistic saying all our days as sorrow and grief and never finding rest. But we do see balance that we succeed or excel despite the sin that we have "paired" up with Christ in our baptism and the Lord turns sides for us as the right hand of the Father. We are to put to death in us whatever hinders us from living in Christ. We are to be new men and women, formed anew in the image of Christ.

Jesus is asked to settle a family dispute over inheritance. But he refuses and says clearly, "Avoid greed in all its forms" (to talk about the possible of someone who has so much that he has no place to put it and so he pulls down the old barns and builds bigger and bigger, plans and plans for us going to do with all his new wealth and food, but he dies without thought, without sharing, he would have done despite to the Eternal God's generosity. Life is not a matter of storing up for God, or an attitude of thankfulness. No tell the rich man. This is the way with those who do not know how to grow rich in the sight of God" by sharing and the poor by working for justice, by giving thanks to God by giving away one's money and then giving with ever greater generosity. When does God take day, this night be for God?

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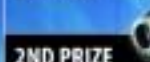

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Art, music heal as PGH celebrates centennial

Front page A1

ing physicians who eventually become leading specialists in various medical fields around the world, he said.

First of several

The Aug. 17 inaugural is only the first of several "artistic projects" lined up in the PGH's 100th year. The "Arts and Medicine Project," he said, is a tie-up with the UP College of Fine Arts, an institution almost as old as the hospital.

"As it is now, the hallways and corridors of the PGH are rather bare, impersonal and drab. ... We want to transform the hospital's hallways into miniature art galleries, and I think no other hospital is doing something like this," Cruz-Lucero observed.

The juried paintings and sculptures will be "a permanent part of the PGH architecture," and artworks will eventually start to be installed in the wards and private rooms, he said.

Hopefully, he said, the "artistic projects"—an end also to the revolving-door upgrading of medical facilities being underwritten by generous donors both public and private—would also help in the hospital administration's efforts to change the public perception of the PGH.

Despite the people's high regard for the hospital's doctors,

VILLENCIADO: Song of inspiration

ARGUYA: Art as healing grace

HAIL THE PGH: The only world-class hospital for the poor.

nurses and health care staff, "even lay people look to the PGH as rewarded, mostly and dirty," Cruz-Lucero observed.

"But now our walls are spotless and our charity wards have growths (flours)," he said, adding that the Senate Sponsorship Foundation had managed to raise P21 million for the renovation of the charity wards.

Scenes from the ER

Stories of how PGH doctors, mostly students of the UP College of Medicine, shelf out their own money for their patients' medicines are the stuff of legend.

But these stories are plenty, not from that air, but from "a tragedy" seen in the PGH emergency room every day, Cristobal Arroyo said.

It is a reality borne out of pity for the sick who can barely make ends meet, said Dr. Gregorio Alviar, head of the PGH Medical Foundation that organized Valenciano's concert.

"One of the objectives of this concert is to [raise] a fund big enough so that these things will not happen anymore," Alviar said.

Cristobal said the adults there see no question of the PGH doctors' competence in treating patients, many patients simply could not afford the expensive medicines or the equally costly diagnostic facilities.

The problem, he said, was the comatose lack of money: "Our budget allows us to support us-

by Lu number of patients a year. lic, there's always a shortfall. We could have taken better care of patients if we had enough funds to make those diagnostic facilities and medications available to them."

Gary V

Valenciano's benefit concert will contribute mainly to the healing the sick. On practical terms, its organizers hope to raise at least P3 million for charity patients needing emergency care.

The proceeds will go to the PGH Medical Foundation's Emergency Fund, which aims to shoulder not only the medicines for poor patients but also the supplies and diagnostic and therapeutic procedures that they urgently need.

The multi-awarded Valenzuela, the foundation's first choice to top-bill the concert, has received his talent fee for the show.

He said he simply wanted to do something special for the PGH whose children's ward he had visited at least twice before. (When pushed to name one of his songs, "People Need the Lord," he came video clippings of his visits to the hospital.)

Valenciano said that, apart from his being a celebrity, his being a diabetic had become an advantage in his outreach programs for the sick and their families.

"It's a person with an illness talking to another with an illness. For many times, too, I talk with the parents because they are the ones struggling to cope," he said.

Valenciano, the Ormoc Ambassador of Goodwill for the Philippines for almost a decade now, expressed admiration for the doctors treating children with cancer.

"You can always tell that they are not jaded," he said. "It's enough to see kids with basic pain, and the doctors are exposed to this every single day."

Valenciano said he was still gathering more information about the PGH to help him put together his repertoire for the benefit concert, to make the hospital's only part of the show.

But one thing is certain. He will sing songs that "have a lot of inspiration."

World-class for the poor

Of the 600,000 patients that the PGH treated yearly, for the past decade, its emergency room received some 300 to 800 patients daily.

The hospital is one of the last modern in the country to cling, bearing a requirement of Emergency Medicine that it train physicians to become emergency specialists. (UP, Cebuanomed, "the load can be so terrible that sometimes it takes superhuman effort for her able to attend to the many patients."

But it won't stop the PGH from aiming to become a world-class health facility that mostly patients deserve.

"We'll probably be the only world-class hospital where most clients are the poor," Cruz-Lucero said.

DURAN: Special education teacher of Calabarzon City

FERROLS: Philosophy professor, dancer de Manila

SANTIAGO: Middle teacher of Nueva Ecija

TEODORO: Science advocate of press freedom

4 teachers are 'the few to inspire the many'

Front page A1

emerged as "the few to inspire the many."

Daily trek

Santiago, who turns 53 on Aug. 8, learned to get through her speech when called to the podium.

Her voice breaking, she told the audience how she taught a class of blind reservists in a military camp and how she walked great distances to get to her students, among them, Igorot, Aeta and Kankanaey, in the mountains of Bulacan City, Nueva Ecija.

"I never thought that the 9 to 10 kilometers I walked every day to my class would take me this far," she said.

Also a regional awardee for her dedication to the education department's Mountaineer Learning System, Santiago had to ply Isabel commute to teaching in a far-flung school before she decided to serve as a mobile teacher in her home province, providing basic education to occasionally homeless adults.

"No one will admit that he a illiterate. Encouraging those who have never had schooling in front is very hard, because they will not exchange the money they can make to attending your class," Santiago said.

Unshackled persons

In teaching elementary courses to unschooled persons aged 16 and up, Santiago has developed the delicate art of getting adults on the road to learning even in "scary" situations.

She had such an experience in July 2002, when the military chose her among the mobile teachers to hold classes for the new members of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front.

"Sandali lang, before ill sabi sevarsons nun ng 'scary' she said. "One of them said he would take me home. Even if I was terrified, I told him that he should respect me because I was his teacher."

But she has been rewarded many times over after seeing her former students improve their lives. "It means a lot because I was also a single parent. All the difficulties I had just go away."

'Many faces of teachers'

The four educators are the finalists of this year's "Many Faces of the Teacher" awards, which was organized by 2000 by the Ruby Rubber Foundation Inc. (RRFI) and Office of Planning Systems Inc. (OPSI) to annually commend and encourage the Philippines' millions recognized and other overseas-based teaching force.

"We'd like to show that despite the dismal picture of our education system, we do have some bright spots. And the teachers are one of those bright spots in the midst of problems," said the RRFI's treasurer Ruben Jr. in the simple unveiling ceremony in Makati City.

The 2007 awardees will again be honored in September's "A Tribute to Teachers," a yearly gathering also organized by the RRFI and OPSI to recognize "the selflessness and courage of teachers who continue the good work despite the odds." Some 15,00 teachers are expected to attend the event.

Teodoro, noting the parallel decline in the interest in teaching as a profession and society's regard for educators, told the business "At least there will be public awareness that what teachers do is important, [especially those] teachers in the basic education sector who do the more difficult work."

2 hands clapping

As Belen put it, "Many faces of a Teacher" and September's celebration are two hands applauding the country's educators for their dedication in a profession that has a lot to do with making do.

"We took not only of skills but also as the teacher as a soul person—how he or she influences his/her students, society and his/her colleagues," said RRFI president Amanda Ibarellana.

The organizers partnered with socio-civic groups in some up with a share list of 5-3 for the deliberation of a panel of judges.

There is no monetary reward for the honor, just the privilege of being a role model for the rest of the nation's teaching force, Belen said.

It is a position of value, especially at a time when educators seem to have lost a sense of pride in the profession.

"It used to be that if you're a teacher, you'd say 'I am a teacher.' But now, it's 'Teacher ang (only)," said Teodoro, a mentor of many of today's journalists professionals.

We have if there's recognition, those graduating from high school might have a sense that it would be worthy to take up education," he said.

Passions

As emotional as Santiago was Duran, 53, a teacher of children with special needs at the Calabarzon City Central Pilot School for 13 years now and also a foster mother to her four adopted students.

Duran works every during weekends and holidays, and her determination to educate children with cognitive, visual or hearing impairment has helped raise enrollment in her school's special education classes from five in 1995 to 56 students this year.

"I don't know what to say. " said a tearful Duran. "To imagine that I've been teaching the disabled, I never reach this success. It's not easy to teach the disabled, but I have grown to love them ... and it's love my job."

Duran's passion is equaled by Ferrols, who has earned the admiration of his peers for his unwavering commitment to teaching philosophy in Filipino.

The Jesuit priest's words said it all: *Ang pag-iisip ay hindi isa't hindi isinisilo sa pagbabasa at aral.* Ang mainam *ilosopiya* ay sa ingles batong ang nagsasaad sa kaya, nanunumaka at ingles, ay nag-ing- *sa Filipino, mong ating pagbabasa ng katotohanan ito! Kaisipang bilanggo ng wika* (Thinking is not a game but a profound search for truth. ... If you philosophize in English while the street sweeper or jeepney driver thinks in Filipino, what kind of search for truth is that? We must recognize that the common man also philosophizes and seeks truth.)

Four of Ferrols' philosophy books have been cited by the Manila Critics Circle. In 1989, Ateneo de Manila awarded him the Gerard Langlaw Gold for his efforts to promote humanism in Filipinos.

This teacher of 52 years will mark his 82nd birthday on Aug. 16.

Changing all that

Teodoro, 63, a former dean of the UP Siliman College of Mass Communication and a staunch advocate of press freedom, delivered brief remarks but drew loons the point.

"Teaching is the least appreciated profession in the country and I hope these awards will correct the dominant impression that teaching is thankless. I hope these awards will go toward changing all that," he said.

The past "Many Faces of the Teacher" awardees are: mathematics and science teacher and keynote columnist Queena Lee-Chua, Dr. Jesusito Ilaya, after talent Planet Ilyn was named, reading coach Dr. Maria Teresa Calderon, Lubao Children's Choir founder Alma Fernando-Tiklo, school founder Fety delos Angeles-Bautista, mathematics teacher Dr. Milagros Ibe, philosophy professor Dr. Florencio Bacierro, theology professor Dr. Jesuits Bacierro, retired Dr. Carmen Soliman, Dr. Onofre Pagsanghan and Fr. James Reuter.

Art of widow . . .

Front page A1

from the St. Scholastica's College campus.

Aquino's untitled under Ormoc and Filipino Benedictine nuns and graduated valedictorian of her St. Scholastica's grade school class in 1944. She went in the United States for high school and college. She majored in mathematics.

Done in acrylic and oil, Aquino's latest paintings are mostly of flowers and women's faces done in the last 10 years. Several were finished just this year. Some of her earlier paintings have been used on calendars, fans and cards. One has been made into a jigsaw puzzle. Several big ones are on display in her Makati office.

Her strong suit is drawing the nuns' style. Aquino was provided space to mount an exhibit. The exhibit was on her idea.

Not for sale

"It's not as if I'm so talented," Aquino told the Inquirer with self-deprecating humor. "My paintings are not for sale, I usually give them away as gifts," she added.

And why has she not done a painting of her husband who is now acclaimed as a hero and martyr? "Wow, the things that I have done for him these last 24 years," she said impishly "and now I have to paint him?"

But her only son, newsbroadcast Ben Bengzon "Bencoy" Aquino III, thought it would not be easy for his mother to do a painting of him. "She knew my father up close and it would perhaps be painful and difficult for her."

When asked why there were no faces of nuns in her paintings, Aquino laughed and said, "Hindi pa oka (convincing). I still don't know how."

One of the paintings on display, "Sour Sisters" (1981) shows four nunnery who represent her four daughters, Bridey, Pinky, Viel and Kris. "On Nursery Lines" (2002) is a young nunnery in yellow habits on a row. When told that the image resembled her show his celebrity daughter Kris, she exclaimed, "Kita mould be so happy to hear that."

"A New Bally Anew" (2002) shows a woman in a yellow gown, "Symphony in Green" (2003) is a nun surrounded by trees, while "It's Time to Pray" (2003) is a hill covered with flowers, with steps leading to a big cross. Cards with this picture and with a prayer she composed ("Prayer for a Happy Death") printed on the back were distributed during the exhibit.

Happy colors

"Tattered Woman" (2005) is different from all the rest because of its jagged strokes and soft colors. "I don't know," Aquino answered, "but I just wanted to do it." She does not always know how a painting would turn out, she said.

"I love happy colors," the retouched while viewing her own works. "I go to National Bookstore myself to choose and buy my paints." It's at night time, when it is quiet, that she gathers the paint, brushes, palette and sits down to work on the canvas.

Indeed, there's life after the presidency. Aquino, 75, couldn't help but agree. Through the library Aquino Foundation, she continues to be involved with nongovernmental organizations. She makes occasional forays into "people power" and politics. And she paints.

Aquino, the "widow in yellow," led the anti-Marcos movement after her husband's assassination in 1983 and was catapulted to the presidency after the so-called People Power uprising toppled the Marcos dictatorship. She was president from 1986 to 1992.

"A Colorful Life" (2007) would perhaps sum up the life and times of Ninoy's widow who, through a dramatic historical turn of events, came into her own.

Politicians she invited to the exhibit were Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Sen. Edgardo Angara, Representative Teofisto Guingona III and Associate Justice Adolf Azcuna of the Supreme Court.

77 sick cops to be axed to save on cost

By Ricardo Pasco

TO SAVE MONEY, THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE is set to remove from the service 77 personnel who undergo kidney dialysis.

Deputy Director General Jesus Versoza of the PNP's Program Management Office (PMO) said the medical treatment of the 77 personnel cost almost P300 million a year. This is half of the PNP's budget for medical and hospital services.

"Unless somebody, the PNP is not a charity organization. We need to separate them from the force and realign more of the budget for other priorities," Versoza said.

He also lamented the fact that some of the 77 losers making members of the PNP.

"The medical issues that they had absorbed their bodies (by drinking) alcohol or some other way very early in their careers," said Versoza. He also called on all members of the 125,000-strong PNP to take better care of their health.

"The essence of the police force is public service. We cannot give public service if our bodies have been abused," he stressed.

Versoza said the PNP was targeting a September deadline for the separation of the 77 personnel. They would be given extra separation benefits to be used for their treatment.

The move is part of 14-point-with ambition program that could be implemented by the year's office.

Part of the program is the examination of the separation of non-performing personnel due to criminal and physical disabilities. Before any officer would be asked to resign, an examination board will examine his or her case. Every rank, from senior superintendent on down, will have an examination board to look into the cases and make recommendations to the PMO chief who has final approval.

Versoza also said they would look into the cases of some 200 senior superintendents who were without assignments. They discovered there were 160 vacant positions for the rank of senior superintendent. But they were all outside Metro Manila.

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Toy company recalls products made in China

A MULTINATIONAL TOY COMPANY HAS recalled some of its products made by a contract manufacturer in China using non-approved lead paint in violation of applicable law as well as their own standards.

In a press release, Mattel Southeast Asia Pte. Ltd. said it would address the issue quickly and effectively. It said it had launched a last week recall where retailers worldwide identify affected products, remove them from their shelves, intercept incoming shipments and stop orders from the world.

"We apologize to everyone affected by this recall, especially those who bought the toys in question," said Robert A. Eckert, chair and chief executive officer of Mattel Inc.

The recall involves toys and figures manufactured between April 19, 2007 and July 6, 2007, that were sold almost on quarter of sets in total items from May to August 2007.

The toys have a date code between 109 TLF and 187 TLF marked on the product. The model names and product numbers for the recalled toys, which are all marked "Fisher-Price" include: 29004 Sesame Street Cookie Monster Toy Vehicle; 50967 Sesame Street Musician Elmo; 50965 Dora Say It Toss Plays Asst.; 63665 Dora Talking Treasure Box; 63830 Dora Let's Go Adventures Asst.; 50943 Diego Animal Adventures Asst.

Other Fisher-Price toys were not affected by the recall.

For more information, consumers may contact Malina Sharmaville or Elaine Yap in Malaysia at tel. (+603) 2092 4388; fax (+603) 2092 0972, e-mail malina.sharma@mgt.com, elaine@mgt.com.

Grad school marks 45th, aims to heal RP

THE ASIAN SCHOOL INSTITUTE, A GRADUATE school for the social sciences, is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, kicking things off with a three-day Creative Integrity of Creation (CIFC) workshop on Aug. 6 at ASI's Ft. Bonifacio hall on Lone Grimm Street in Manila.

The quarterly IPE workshops aim to heal the "divides" in Philippine society and enable leaders of various institutions to reflect on how to bridge the "divides" that have led to poverty, violence and the degradation of the environment.

Speakers for the Aug. 6 workshop include Dr. Jose E. Roman, chair of the Mariano T. Rubio Institute for Sustainable Development and a member of ASI's board of trustees, and Bishop Deogracias Iniguez.

For more information, interested parties may call tel. 815-4908, 815-6925 and 525-3683.

Luz T. Ancheta; 63

LUZ TOLEDO ANCHETA OF GUIMARAS, Cagayan, died on Aug. 3 at the age of 63.

She is survived by her husband Bernardino; children Ruben and Allyn, Melissa, and Marianne and Master Simpson, and mother Josefina T. Cuppia.

Her remains lie at St. Peter's Memorial Chapel, 206 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Funeral arrangements will be announced later. Relatives and friends may reach the family at 0917-6480606 and 0917-5786546.

Capt. N. Tapia; 76

CAPT. NORBERTO E. TAPIA OF NYK SHIP Management died on July 31 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his wife Elena; children Dr. Sally and Dinen, Regie and Ma. Stella, Lea and Wilma, Nene and Joseph, Bing and Raymund, Beng, Jing and Tony, and grandchildren.

His remains lie at Funeraria Sto. Manila Memorial Park, Imus, Dasmariñas City. Interment will be today after the 9 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park.

A chair is not just a chair in the Senate

From page A1

that the administration bloc cannot automatically claim seats in the CA.

The CA is headed by Senate President Manuel Villar as the ex-officio chair and has 12 members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives who are chosen, under the Constitution, according to "proportional representation from the political parties" in both chambers.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the appointed leader of the administration bloc, said they told Villar of their formula wherein their bloc would be entitled to five seats in the CA.

According to their formula, the CA membership would be proportionately divided by a 58.33 percent ratio between the 15-member majority bloc and the eight-man minority bloc.

This means that of the 12 available seats, four would go to the opposition-led minority bloc while eight seats would go to the majority bloc.

Due to the divide in the majority bloc, the seats would be further divided by a 65-40 ratio between the nine-member administration bloc and the five other so-called "Villar Group" senators.

Operating on ratios

By Enrile's reckoning, the administration bloc that includes erstwhile chief coup d'etat reporter Sen. Gregorio Honasan would take five seats, while the rest of the majority bloc would be entitled to three seats.

"I don't think that's tenable. We operate on ratios here," Enrile said earlier this week.

He said they also agreed that senators who only have three years left in their term (like Lito Lapid) get six key committees while eight seats would go to the majority bloc.

But four senators who belong to the Liberal Party party were quick to oppose Enrile's formula.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Manuel Roxas II and Benigno Aquino III on Thursday wrote Villar to "assert the Liberal Party's constitutionally guaranteed prerogative of naming our representatives to the Commission on Appointments and the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET)."

Under Article VI, Sections 17 and 18 of the Constitution, membership in the CA and the SET shall be chosen on the basis of "proportional representation from the political parties" represented in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Hence, the Liberal Party is merely exercising its prerogative to nominate two senators to the CA and one nominee to the SET," the four LP senators said in a joint statement.

Although they initially vowed to vote as a bloc in the Senate proper, Sens. Pangilinan, Biazon, Roxas and Aquino III on Thursday signified their willingness to side with Villar in the majority bloc.

Sen. Pimbida Lacson, who is in the minority bloc, said he preferred that the CA seats be assigned according to party representation rather than according to the majority-minority divide.

Blurred affiliations

He himself admitted that party affiliations were blurred in the various political factions.

Lacson said in his words, under the Constitution, it should be according to party."

Villar said earlier this week.

When asked which rule should prevail, he replied: "Hopefully. Enrile lamang kung magkakandaugaga (Enrile only problems if should be by party. But if they can come to an agreement anyway then there's no problem)."

Villar said he would likely announce next week the chairmanships of the Senate's 20 standing committees. The members of the majority would get the priority in choosing which committees they want to chair, while the leftover committees would be distributed to minority members.

Work and Personal Relationships Success Fostered by Inclusive Culture at Accenture

Success. From childhood, this is what we are all groomed for: success in school, at work, and in our personal life. Not many people are able to achieve all three, but high performing employees of Accenture appear to be among the exceptions. Either the ranks of Accenture are successful individuals, and interestingly, siblings, couples, and relatives, who not only excel in their jobs, but in their personal lives and relationships as well.

"Accenture considers people to be its greatest assets. We hire the best people and groom them to become high performers. The whole process of engaging employees at Accenture is based on the philosophy of versatility, collaboration, and constant improvement," said Beth Lui, Country Managing Director, Accenture Philippines.

According to Dot Valdez, Country Human Resources Lead, Accenture strives to create a richly diverse environment that acknowledges each person's uniqueness, values his or her skills and contributions, and promotes respect, personal achievement and stewardship.

"Accenture promotes an inclusive work environment. We hire without biases on gender, tendency, personal inhibitions, religion or culture. We take in people who are able to challenge conventional thought, offer unique perspectives, and generate innovative ideas. In search of the best talents, Accenture measures each individual on his or her merits - not on who he or she is, or is related to," added Valdez.

While other companies do not allow siblings or husband-and-wife and other familial relations in their organizations, Accenture is different. "Personal life significantly impacts on professional life, and support is critical. So when personal life and profession are the overlap, in Accenture, that's a good thing," said Jill Smart, Accenture's Chief Human Resources Officer, who was in Manila recently.

Except for businesses run by families, have you ever heard of a wife overhearing trainings for her husband's team? How about a brother-and-sister big team for a project? Or how about all 3 siblings and a sister-in-law as office-mates? Sounds unusual, but this is the case for the Yason couple, Gean and Arvin; Ybañez siblings, Dindoy and Douglas, and the Gallot siblings, Lizza, Mark and Mike, and Mike's wife, Rhoda - all Accenture employees.

According to Arvin Yason, Senior Manager in Accenture Technology Solutions, "Accenture has a system of checks and balances that ensures no abuses happen when two or more family members or relatives are employed in the company."

Arvin is married to Gean, a Senior Manager also with Accenture Technology Solutions. They met while studying Management Engineering at the Ateneo de Manila University, and both of them decided to work at Accenture. After taking on different projects, and handling local and both in the United States, they finally got assigned to short overseas assignments. Both now based in Manila, the couple finally had the chance to do the kind! Because they work in the same company, it is easy to understand the demands of each other's job. In fact, it is because they both work for Accenture that they can exchange ideas and opinions, Gean said. "We approach issues at

Accenture

Delivering high performance in the Philippines and around the world.

Accenture is one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies, committed to delivering innovation that helps clients become high-performance businesses. With over 158,000 people in 49 countries, few organizations are able to match our industry knowledge and process expertise, our global resources or our proven track record. That's probably why we've worked with over two thirds of the FORTUNE® Global 500.

In the Philippines we have over 12,000 professionals in the Manila Delivery Centre and operate in Makati City, Pasay City, Quezon City, Muntinlupa City, and soon in Cebu City. Leveraging their skills from these locations, we deliver technology solutions and outsourcing services to clients across a diverse range of industries in Europe, Asia and North America. This gives our employees the opportunity to do interesting work, develop new skills and work on leading edge technologies and business processes.

In an innovative and collaborative team environment which nurtures talent, encourages training, provides career growth and rewards accomplishments, our people in the Philippines focus on the delivery of transformational solutions—helping clients realize their vision and achieve high performance.

Cimatu ordered to Iraq to probe Pinoys' plight

By Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia Balana and Jaymee Anning

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has reminded the turfs of Ambassador Roy Cimatu and sent him back to the Middle East to deal with the reported smuggling of Filipino laborers over Iraq.

Cimatu, the former retired Marines chief of staff whose term as special envoy to the Middle East should have expired on June 30, left Manila for Kuwait en route to Iraq yesterday.

His mission, according to foreign affairs officials, is to verify reports that 31 Filipinos were forcibly smuggled into Iraq to work in the construction of the US Embassy in Baghdad. Red Ibarra, and bring them back to the Philippines.

The President signed Executive Order No. 699 on July 25 canceling the life of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Commission (PMEPC) up to Dec. 31 to ensure the security and safety of Filipinos working in the Middle East. An additional P5 million was allotted for the PMEPC's expenses, according to Malacañang.

The decision came after a frantic confabulation between the US Congress that Filipino workers were made to work under inhuman conditions on the US Embassy project.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion had said he learned that only 11 Filipinos, not 31, actually went to work in Iraq, and only five were still there.

In extending Cimatu's term, Bunoa said President Arroyo also wanted him to investigate other reported victimsfor of the deployment ban in Iraq, which was imposed following the killing of truck driver Angelo de la Cruz by Iraqi rebels in 2004.

He said the President told Cimatu to "prepare and establish a specific contingency plan for each potential crisis in safer countries, and to recommend new ways to totally enforce the current ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq and elsewhere."

GOING FOR COMPUTERS

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus (right, standing) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. (left, standing) watch schoolchildren from Bona Aurora Quezon Elementary School test some of the 31 computers donated by the BSP to public elementary schools. The computers were funded through the "Tulong Kaya Para sa Eskwela," a joint project of the Department of Education and the BSP that encourages donations of coins for the public schools. Behind are (from left) Dr. Carlos Manlupig of the Economic Policy Reform Advocacy and Monetary Board Members Alfredo Antonio and Juanita Amatong.

keenly. Sometimes we have fun debates about how to get something done."

"Accenture is an equal opportunity employer. The company focuses on what a person brings to the table. What are his competencies? What value is he adding? Does she have the potential to be successful in Accenture?"

Will she live her core values? Being part of a company that respects individuality is very motivating," said Dinday Ybiña-Cabangon, Solution Architect and Marketing Collaterals Lead for Client Services Organization.

Dinday's brother, Douglas, works as a Program Manager, also in Accenture. And just last February, he joined the Client Services Organization team, and has been working with his sister since then.

"Being only 1 of 2 siblings, our relationship has always been close and candid. I was concerned about the work arrangement in the beginning, but, as it turned out, we are able to have the same relationship qualities professionally as pre-divorce personal lives. Working with Dinday has given me an opportunity to get to know her even better. Seeing her in action has raised my level and respect for her in a whole new level," Douglas said.

Dinday shared: "A typical work day involves my brother picking me up from my house, sitting in the same cube with him, attending the same meetings and consulting each other on work matters, having lunch together and then finally going home together. I think our arrangement brings a new dimension to our relationship as brother and sister."

"I think that by removing the restriction of titling siblings or other relationships, Accenture has increased our potential talent pool. I would like to look at it as Accenture putting value on relationships. As I've learned, adding a work element may actually make the relationship more profound and meaningful," Douglas added.

The Gubat family is known to one for the books. Rhoda and husband, Mike, are both managers at Accenture Technology Solutions. "My father-in-law, Lucio, is an HR representative and my brother-in-law, Mark Anthony, is with Accenture, global IT consulting specializing on Microsoft enterprise technology and one of Accenture's key alliances. My sister, Anna, used to work for Andersen Consulting (Accenture's previous name) from 1993 to 1997."

According to Lizza, seeing how her brother and sister-in-law love their work has influenced her in applying with Accenture. "One benefit of having relatives in the same company is knowing what's in it for me at Accenture and having mentors to guide me," Lizza pointed out.

While the Gubats are often assigned to different projects, Rhoda and Mike once had to work on the same project, but on different teams. "We had the same schedule and location, which was very convenient for both of us," said Rhoda.

For the four of them, it is easy to share morning experiences, tips, problem-solving techniques, work encouragements and friendly. According to Rhoda, "We have different topics to talk about when driving back home, but the basis of it is that I know what he is talking about because we're in Accenture. And we have a lot of common friends which is really fun."

The memories of Glenn and Anna, Dinday and Douglas, and Rhoda Mike, Mark and Lizza prove that far from being a hindrance, family members working in the same company can be beneficial to both the employees and the organization. Nurturing an environment rich in diversity, Accenture sees through and beyond its employees' relationships. The company recognizes each individual's uniqueness, allows his or her talents and contributions, and promotes respect, personal achievement and stewardship. Accenture offers an opportunity for a successful merging of two worlds, where your family and friends can be your most indispensable colleagues. This inclusive culture helps develop employees to become high performers.

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OPINION

Reckless warmongering

EDITORIAL

YET AGAIN, WE FACE A VITAL TEST OF INSTITUtions. The beheading of Philippine Marines in Tipo-Tipo continues to foster a justified outrage, and keeps on producing shocking, even disturbing, allegations of incompetence on the part of the armed forces. First, there were questions concerning the numerical inequality of the troops. Then, more recently, there emerged the equally shocking allegation that the Marines were unable to receive assistance, for lack of a common radio frequency between the men on the ground and the pilots sent to lend them air support.

The Marines want revenge. By all accounts, the public is largely fearsquare behind the soldiers. We recall an observation made by a TV executive, some months ago. With regard to news and current affairs, the public hates news of the fighting in Mindanao: ratings show that when shows cover that topic, viewers switch channels. The public would much rather keep the fighting in Mindanao out of sight—and out of mind.

But nothing gets public opinion heated up than the massacre of soldiers, and nothing brings out a residual patriotism in the public than a military offensive in Mindanao. And it is very easy for the national leadership to pander to—there's no other word for it—such chauvinism by letting loose the dogs of war.

This is why we say the country faces a vital test of institutions. The Marines, sent to rescue a hostaged Italian priest, apparently stumbled onto territory jealously guarded by rebels, who engaged the Marines in a firefight and butchered them when the soldiers were subdued—because their ammunition was defective, their communications were ineffectual, and their search-and-rescue proved a suicide charge.

The question is whether a military offensive should proceed on the basis of a bungled operation. Perhaps the public doesn't care why the soldiers died, and only that they did—and that the rebels must pay. However, the public ought to care that the soldiers, who died bravely, also died senselessly: and that more soldiers' lives will be squandered if the military doesn't get a grip on the causes of the massacre in the first place.

The causes are two. First, the rebels in Mindanao are either disunited (with factions talking peace while others are trying to goad the military into renewed hostilities), or plain insincere about the peace talks, refusing the protection of their territorial enclaves more than the peace process. Second, the armed forces, because of poor generalship, and inefficiency verging on the criminal, are incapable of mounting effective operations, which include supporting troops tasked with missions on the ground. All this, despite the active assistance of allies in the fight against groups like the Abu Sayyaf, once a bandit group but which has now armed itself with a pan-Islamic, radical ideology.

The same intellectual ferment that produced the Five Quarter Storm also gave birth to the concept of a Bangsamoro. President Ferdinand Marcos' delusions of being the conqueror of Sabah resulted in the Jabidah massacre, revolt in Muslim Mindanao and the bloodiest fighting in the country since World War II. The Tripoli Agreement of 1976 established a brittle peace with the Moro National Liberation Front.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front split off as a more radical offshoot, with dreams of a Bangsamoro more patently religious than the fairly secular MNLF. But the MILF has been torn by a further radicalization: dreams of an Islamic state covering the region. The MILF has flirted with the Jemaah Islamiyah, which has a larger goal, represented by Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida: to nurture an Islamic caliphate. The Abu Sayyaf belongs in this radical, pan-Islamic regional movement.

Human Rights Watch recently reported that since 2000, more than 1,700 civilians have been killed or wounded in terror attacks, mainly in Mindanao. This is more than the casualties in counter-rebel activities in Indonesia, or Morocco, Spain, Turkey, or Britain. And yet, our institutions have overlooked a central question: unquestionably popular a military solution might be, among Christians (particularly in Mindanao), the Filipino Muslim voice—particularly those clamoring for peace—has been not only largely drowned out, but also ignored. Yet, who can doubt that a lasting victory against terrorism, and a just peace, are impossible without their support?

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The Histrionic Security Act of 2007

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

I DON'T KNOW WHY CONGRESS HAS Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo still has to enact the Human Security Act of 2007 when the United Nations are already enforcing the Bill of Rights under existing laws. The premise of promoting the human rights against terrorists is a false notion. There are already the checkpoints and the warrantless arrests and the disappearances and the unsolved murders and other violations of human rights that are attributable to the military under the fruitless "Don't scream me out" command under chief. There are enough to annoy President George W. Bush (see DAIA A to Z Diary) supporting his campaign to combat international terrorism, from the Office of Palmolive to the malls in Metro Manila, with his Guantanamo Bay prisoners.

The HSA is like an excessively woman using all kinds of artifices to make her look attractive. Colored wigs, heavy makeup, padded brassieres, synthetic hair extensions and other beauty aids are used to cover up her innate ugliness and deceive the unsuspecting and easily impressed onlooker. So it is with the anti-terror law law which conceals its oppressive provisions with a veneer of supposed protections and confidence intended to convince the people that any abuse in the implementation of its provisions shall be dealt with severely and instantly.

Stiff penalties are imposed for the commission of the crimes enumerated in its Section 7 that are already punished by the Revised Penal Code but are additionally condemned if they were and crime "in contribution of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the people." In order to resort to the government to glory is to do unlawful demand." The suspension are to easily-established before a court of justice influenced by the subjects of the administration or because of the inefficacy of our procedural rules, as in habeas corpus proceedings that are irrefutably dismissed where the suspects

have been produced in court. Even the Human Security Act of 2007 when the United Nations are already enforcing the Bill of Rights under existing laws. The premise of promoting the human rights against terrorists is a false notion. There are already the checkpoints and the warrantless arrests and the disappearances and the unsolved murders and other violations of human rights that are attributable to the military under the fruitless "Don't scream me out" command under chief. There are enough to annoy President George W. Bush (see DAIA A to Z Diary) supporting his campaign to combat international terrorism, from the Office of Palmolive to the malls in Metro Manila, with his Guantanamo Bay prisoners.

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have been produced in court. Even the Human Rights, whose the military denies having abducted, seems it may already have executed since the disappearance more than three months ago?

Will the cost to end the HSA expose and energy have provable statistics?

There is also that silly Section 30 of the HSA calling for the payments of damages in the amounts of P500,000 to any person acquitted of the charges of terrorism. "Not merely that he or she has been detained or deprived of liberty or arrested without a warrant as a result of such accusation." That must be done within 15 days from the acquittal of the accused. The money comes out of appropriations that seems to be inadequate if not invisible. After all, the one million pesos travel allowance Speaker Jose de Venecia has promised each new member of the House of Representatives must first be paid.

Under the TSHSC victims of unjust imprisonment, arbitrary detention or violent crimes pay their damages in the amount of P1,000 for every month of imprisonment, and in all other cases, the accused shall not exceed P1,000 or the expenses incurred for medical treatment, loss of wages, loss of support or other expenses related to the injury whichever is more. This law is pennies compared to the impossible generosity of the HSA under the executive and spendthrift de facto powerthrust.

The HSA is for especially noted, let's admit, that implementation of the HSA is under the supervision of the Anti-Terrorism Council comprised of executive Cabinet secretaries under the control of President Arroyo. And, incidentally, why the law was passed with the consent of the hand members of the house, which is naturally insidious when it comes to the protection of the Constitution.

The human security law is common except that the people who entered it is to dead ancient stones it. We could all be laughing.

What for? For whom?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A PHARAOH who, while explaining death and resurrection during a funeral Mass, pointed to the coffin and remarked: "What we have here before us is only the shell—the case is gone."

* * *

In today's gospel (Lk 12, 13-21), Jesus speaks about some other kind of case—those who are sure for money. Such who think they are secure because of their material possessions. The greatest tragedy is when we make the rich's case and we realize that all we have worked for and up to nothing, and the man we have been preparing will not even come out in the final exams.

* * *

Someone once said that money is like a snake. It is harmless if you know how to take hold of it, but if not, it will strangle your arm and bite you. How many people have been addicted and blinded by money? How many people are already dead in their character and soul because of their greed and love for money even before they physically die?

* * *

I once gave the haunting of the fish on a very rich man. He had three nurses attending to him in his hospital suite. As I was praying over him, he was pleading: "Father Orbos, please heal me. Anything you want I will give you. Please heal me!" To this very day, I can never forget the desperate look in his eyes. What is sad is that all the very end, he was still relying on the power of his money instead of relying on the mercy of God.

* * *

Minus your money value are you, what are you? I remember the story about an ugly person who ridiculed a guy who was double. The drunk said: "You know what? Tomorrow morning when I wake up I am no longer drunk. But you, tomorrow morning when you wake up, you are still ugly!"

What is the lesson for? Tomorrow morning when you wake up, and all your money is gone, what are you? Your social is no value you have, but who you are. Indeed, in our what we carry in our hearts that what we carry in our hearts that really matters in the end.

* * *

For those who are so focused and possessive on money, ask yourself these questions. What for? For whom? Why the frantic and risky the money? Is it worth it all? Please reflect on this: Life is no tragic for the person who has plenty to live on, but reaching to live for.

* * *

A text message I received, says: "Funny how people think they don't have enough when they haven't entered, or buy things they don't need, or impress people they don't like." It's not funny it is sad actually that what matters most now for many people is money, and money matters. People think and worry about the rainy day the proverbial life, and hardly direct the moment right and significant life.

* * *

Before you sleep tonight, try kneeling down before your God. The act of kneeling down is a beautiful gesture of humility, and when you are humble before God, you realize that all you have, all your "achievements" come from God, and can be gone in one flick of a finger. In fact, even your very life can end tonight. Should that happen, what are you, who are you, and where will you end up? Do not scare me you. It's today's gospel message: "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?" Indeed, what for? For whom?

* * *

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* * *

A statement with the Lord.

Lord, when someone or business could money, remind me to ask: What for, for whom is it all anyway? Amen.

Vision of Cardinal Rosales

WITH DUE RESPECT

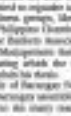
Antonio V. Bautista Gumabon

Skyways

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

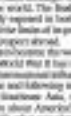
Loose ends



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Weak America equals weakened Europe



WORLD VIEW

Christophe Bertram

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan F. Sarmiento Jr.

Is there a cause for alarm? Definitely, yes!' The observed rainfall in June and July was below normal and the outlook for August is still generally dry

Unconventional dry spell

THE DRY SPELL THAT A LARGE SWATHE OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN EXPERIencing over the past two months is unconventional because it is happening at a time when it is supposed to be the rainy season, according to the weather bureau.

Right tropical cyclones should have entered the Philippine area of responsibility by this time. So far, only two did and they did not even make landfall. They were too far off to enhance the southwest monsoon or habagat that normally brings heavy rains to the western part of the country.

The intertropical convergence zone, which is characterized by cloud clusters, was also supposed to ramp from Mindanao to Luzon. It has stayed over Mindanao and the Visayas.

As a result, Luzon is suffering from a summer-like weather.

The dry spell has brought a host of problems such as the low water levels in dams, paddies and irrigation canals, power outages due to the reduced generating capacity of hydroelectric plants, and water rationing due to the reduced pumping capacity of hydroelectric plants, and water rationing due to the reduced pumping capacity of hydroelectric plants, and water rationing due to the reduced pumping

Across the NATION

$1.5B in mining funds perk up town

MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL—LOCAL GOVernment officials here said they were optimistic that the infusion of about $1.5 billion into the local mining industry and the recent conversion of Mati into a city would finally lead to the development of the area's economy.

Like most towns of Davao Oriental, the city's economy is still heavily dependent on the ailing coconut industry.

Mayor Michelle Rabat said one good thing they were hoping to happen with the town's conversion into a city was the increase of the internal revenue allotment from the previous P220 million per year to P360 million.

"I assure you this will benefit the people through the improved delivery of basic services such as health and education," she said.

Rabat said the ongoing mining projects in the city and in other parts of the province, also opened up more opportunities to residents.

"We have to open up our sources of wealth to the foreign investors if we want to lift our people from abject poverty. All we should do is to think of best ways to make this wealth sustainable for the generations to come," she said.

Officials said mining companies have pledged to hire locals.

Rabat admitted that mining issues with ethnic cultural communities have surfaced in the past but that these issues could seriously alter the ecological balance.

But after the series of dialogues initiated by local government officials, the Mindoro people finally accepted the mining companies.

"The constant dialogue really paid off. Now, we can no longer hear opposition," Mat Mayor Cesar de Leo said. Reported by Jonathan Acosta, Inquirer Mindanao

Roundup

Clash with NPAs clarified

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Residents of a remote village in Prosperidad have said the military appears to have exaggerated its report about an alleged encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels on Friday afternoon.

Earlier, the military said soldiers clashed with at least 15 talk armed rebels in Barangay Sac-Hadad for 45 minutes and killed one of the rebels.

Residents told the Inquirer that soldiers from the 402nd Infantry Brigade had instead intercepted a group of manual motorcyclists. They said one of the men ran for a tree field upon seeing the soldiers and was fired upon, village official Vicente Dacela said, quoting witnesses.

He said based on accounts of witnesses, the gunfire only lasted for about five minutes and the unidentified male was the only target. He said residents later told how the soldiers carried the victim, who was still gasping for breath, to a white vehicle before speeding off.

Dick S. Pamplona, Inquirer Mindanao

3 Moro rebs killed in ambush

COTABATO CITY—Three Moro rebels were killed in an ambush by still unidentified men in Pagalungan town in Maguindanao last Sunday.

Bashir Mustapha, a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and his followers, identified only as Mustafa and Bika Kinimara, were killed after armed men attacked them in Bulluk village, according to Supt. Elenito Bacan, regional operations and plans division chief of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police command.

Another rebel, Raymundo Dagdagil, was wounded in the attack.

Edita E. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

Agusan Norte has third city

BUTUAN CITY—Despite a low turnout of voters in Saturday's plebiscite, the Commission on Elections proclaimed the conversion of the municipality of Cabadbaran in Agusan del Norte into a component city.

But of the 57,380 registered voters, only 36 percent, or about 20,651, cast their ballots. The "yes" votes totaled 17,311 while 700 rejected.

Comelec chairman Resurreccion Borra proclaimed the plebiscite results on the same day that saw Bayugan in Agusan del Sur and Tandag in Surigao del Sur.

Freddie A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao

Rob gang strikes again

DIGOS CITY—Members of a robbery syndicate suspected to be behind the series of daylight holdup incidents were still roaming free today, here and nearby, after they struck again on Tuesday and ran away with about P180,000, police said Wednesday.

City police investigator SPO2 Lenny delos Santos said Alfonso Nombre, a cargo trader from Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur, had just withdrawn money from Equitable Bank along Rizal Avenue here around 9 a.m. when three gunmen stabbed him.

He said nine of the suspects shot and wounded the victim when he resisted.

Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Suspect in slaying kills self

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, Bulacan—A suspect accused of killing two persons, including his wife, and wounding three others last week committed suicide while in his cell here Tuesday, the police said.

Chief Insp. Fatima Maac, Caio Cabo Sinsuat police chief, said Jomel Rosal hanged himself using a piece of cloth.

Rosal was arrested after he killed his wife, shot a neighbor, tracked down two persons with a machete, and held his mother and children hostage for six hours inside their house.

Efren Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Dengue continues wreaking havoc

ILIGAN CITY—Two persons died and about 130 dengue patients had been treated at Dansalan del Norte Provincial Hospital (DNPH) from June to July this year.

Boris Baliga, head nurse of the DNPH, said the hospital recorded 69 dengue cases in June and 58 cases last month.

In July, Baoling City had the highest number of patients with 27.

The provincial government of Zamboanga del Norte has enough medicine supplies to treat dengue patients, according to Baliga.

Michel Lirio, Inquirer Mindanao

Cabanatuan Heritage Foundation

A NEW group that seeks to preserve the heritage of Cabanatuan City was formed recently and its officers inducted into office, according to a press release. The Cabanatuan City Heritage Foundation was formed with the help of city officials and other concerned Cabanatuan residents. Inducted into office as foundation head was Andy Fortin, of Bible fame and veteran radio personality. Verde had started the FM's long-running public service program "Operation Tulong."

CONSULTATION Vice President Noli de Castro, concerned Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) chair, and National Housing Authority General Manager Federico Lacsa meet with residents of the Southville 2 relocation site over their income projects.

Solon seeks declaration of Pinatubo as tourist spot

ANGELES CITY—Pampanga Rep. Carmelo Lazatin has filed a bill seeking to declare Mt. Pinatubo as an official tourist destination in the Philippines.

Lazatin, through House Bill No. 1833, sought the formal designation 16 years after the volcano recorded its strongest eruption on June 15, 1991 but, coincidentally had considered that eruption the second worst in the world in the 20th century.

The disaster destroyed 364 villages in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, killed more than 1,000 people and displaced 1.1 million residents, reports from the National Economic and Development Authority showed.

It damaged P5.8 billion worth of infrastructure, especially irrigation and flood control system, roads and bridges, Lubao, or mudflows, in 1992 damaged more roads and bridges worth P1 billion.

Relief operations, including the construction of evacuation and relocation centers, cost the government P2.5 billion in 1991-1992, Neda said.

By 1996, the government spent P41.6 billion on Mt. Pinatubo-related programs, mostly from the defunct Mt. Pinatubo Commission showed.

"Once found, Mt. Pinatubo is now regarded for its beauty, enticing every adventurous soul," Lazatin said in his explanatory note to HB 1833, referring to the lahar canyons and crystal lake accessible via mountain trails in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

The volcano is surrounded by the mountains of Quadrado, Malasimbo, Sabahbah and Negrito. The horse-shaped lake at the crater is 2.4km wide and 600 to 800 meters deep.

HB 1833 asks the Department of Tourism to assist the declaration and endorsement of Mt. Pinatubo as one of the major tourist spots in the country.

The DOT is also tasked with setting aside a budget for the establishment and maintenance of tourism areas around the volcano.

The proposed law seeks to give local governments the functions to operate tourist projects.

The bill sought to "boost tourism in all adjacent communities of Mt. Pinatubo and create livelihood means for residents," Lazatin said.

Rosalido Tiongson, DOT Central Luzon director, welcomed Lazatin's move. "It's high time to cash that little (as tourist spot)." Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

MT. PINATUBO is quiet now and has become a tourist spot frequented by nature lovers. But the disaster it wrought in June 1991 has altered lives, overcome by victims through a lot of optimism, courage and hard work.

Cagayan now in state of calamity

TUGUEGARAO (2nd)—The provincial board of Cagayan has placed the province under a state of calamity on Friday after the provincial agricultural office reported local officials set the extent of damage of the city spell on palay and corn fields in the province.

Gov. Alvarez Antonio said he recommended the declaration of calamity following to the briefing of provincial agricultural officials, who said 19,000 hectares of palay fields and 25,000 ha of corn farms in the province were destroyed by the typhoon.

Antonio said he would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo and the National Disaster Coordinating Council for cash assistance to help ward off hunger among rice and corn farmers in the province.

He said the assistance might come in the form of seeds, farm tools or through the rehabilitation of irrigation canals.

Abella recommended the allocation of funds for water pumps. Antonio Galdo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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US experts help cops probe bombing in bus

KIDAPAWAN—US EXPLOSIVES experts are assisting in a probe into two bombs that ripped through a crowded bus terminal in this city, killing one passenger and injuring 12 more, police said yesterday.

Two US military bomb experts inspected the scene of Friday's blasts here yesterday, according to Supt. Hubert Kimuntis, South Cotabato chief of police.

The US investigators—part of a contingent conducting joint training exercises with the Philippine military in nearby Jolo—arrived in Mindanao on Thursday, Kimuntis said.

Kimuntis said the blasts may have been carried out by reconnaissance linked to Islamic militants, and that it was the third attack targeting the same bus company since the beginning of July.

He said police suspect the Al Khobar Group—a loose group of renegade guerrillas from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is in peace talks with the government, as well as members linked to the Abu Sayyaf and al Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group.

The group called the company to demand money shortly before the blasts, he said.

A 31-year-old Protestant pastor was killed instantly when the first bomb—left among luggage to be loaded on a bus—exploded at the bus terminal Friday and 12 other people were wounded, Kimuntis said.

The second bomb, which went off inside an empty bus, injured no one.

Police suspect the attacks to detonated the bombs using a cellphone.

The first bomb was an improvised explosive device containing nails, and that the second was an incendiary bomb with gasoline, Kimuntis said. AP

Bus firm stops plying routes following terminal bomb blasts

KIDAPAWAN, CITY—THE MANAGEMENT of Yellow Bus Lines (YBL) has decided to suspend operations following two bomb blasts in its units here on Friday.

One person was killed, while 11 others were wounded, in the attacks that police authorities linked to an extortion gang allegedly allied with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

The first explosion occurred at the arrival section of YBL around 5:30 p.m., when an Alliance Church pastor, identified as Willy Custican of Panabo, Davao City, was killed.

Custican's identity was provided by his wife, Cherry.

Cherry said they have just arrived at the terminal from a vacation in nearby Baugo town and was supposed to leave for Davao City when the bomb exploded.

A YBL security guard said the slain pastor was near where the bomb went off. He was apparently waiting for his wife who went to the toilet, the guard said.

Injuries

Twelve other commuters—Jimmy Hamoy, Dalrylyn Gumia, Morcora Obaro, Jerome Gaoba, Jonir Alo, Edward Anding, Miguel Espeñol, Dondo Mantapaya, Bryan Rasheed, Jessa Jomao, Jonathan Soltayna, and Danilo Marulla—suffered minor injuries.

Brgy. Robert Binondo, South Cotabato police chief, said that a few minutes later, another bomb went off inside a parked YBL air-conditioned bus with a body number A-1951.

The second explosion, he said, damaged motorcycles displayed at a nearby store but nobody was harmed.

Kimuntis said police bomb experts also destroyed an unidentified package inside the Holiday Bus terminal but it did not contain any explosive.

Ramon Bartel, YBL chief security, told the Inquirer the YBL management will only resume operations after they reach an agreement with police and military regarding security arrangements.

Security men

He said the military had agreed to send soldiers to guard buses that ply routes covering Tacurong City and Isulan town, "but we have problems to offer despite, like in Polomolok, Tupi and General Santos."

He also confirmed reports that the bombings were the handiwork of the Al-Khobar Gang, which has been demanding P1 million in monthly protection money from the management.

"The company can't afford to give in to their demands. The management gave money to the same group already but another commander was asking us to give more," Bartel said.

Kimuntis described the Al-Khobar Gang as allied with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

"It's still the work of extortion. The Al-Khobar Gang has links with the Abu Sayyaf, Jemaah Islamiyah and renegade Muslim rebels," Kimuntis said.

BLAST TERMINAL workers and bystanders try to put out a fire that was started by a bomb attack on this bus by members of an extortion gang that has links with terror groups.

> 'The management gave money to the same group already but another commander was asking us to give more...'

Terror record

He said it was the same group responsible for attacks on other bus companies, including Pecos Bus.

In June, eight people were killed while at least two dozen others were injured when explosions rocked the public terminals in Banzalan, Davao del Sur; Marahan, North Cotabato and Cotabato City.

Brgy. Kapitan Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Central Mindanao Command, said the incidents are tactic have nothing to do with extortion.

"The motive is purely extortion. The Al-Khobar Gang has been extorting money but the company keeps on ignoring them," Cabangbang said.

"It's too early to conclude but if you look at the type of explosives they used, it's similar to previous attacks," said South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes, quoting reports on previous attacks by the JI here.

Kimuntis reminded bus companies to remain on alert as the attackers could be planning more bombing missions.

Stop abroad

He said the bus firm should refrain from picking up passengers outside terminal areas to ensure that bombers could not sneak in.

"We should be always one or more steps ahead of their terrorists," he said.

Following Friday's attack on YBL, the third against the bus company this year, police authorities in central and southern Mindanao tightened security in terminals anew. Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin Fernandez and Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Website: www.inquirer.net/region
John Jett Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Mara S. Alvarado

Organic farmers battle skepticism

Convincing farmers to go organic was not easy especially those who have been influenced by the benefits of synthetic inputs

WITHOUT the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, farmers in New Corella are looking forward to healthy crops.

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
New Corella, Davao del Norte

MANY FARMERS IN NEW Corella town in Davao del Norte province still believe that only commercial pesticides and synthetic fertilizers can bring them abundant yield.

Thanks to the advocates of pesticide-free and safe-to-live-environment, these farm practices have been exposed as pernicious to the environment and the health of the people.

The decades-long dependence on these hazardous chemicals has so taken root on the farmers' consciousness that they have remained cold to new farming approaches.

But those who dared try the new approaches have no regrets. One farmer is now anticipating an abundant harvest.

Shift

Wenie Labor, 51, chair of the Municipal Sustainable Farmers Association (MSFA), used their shift to organic agriculture was brought about by the land having lost its capacity to give life to the crops. They have also become burdened by the chemicals' devastation of the environment.

Convincing farmers to go organic was not easy especially with those who have been influenced by the benefits of synthetic inputs. Many of his neighbors, he said, were skeptical.

Environmental concern was also not a major consideration for the farmers. The lack of understanding about the effects of the chemicals on the health of the people and the environment is one of the reasons those farmers remain captive to the synthetic inputs.

Garden

For Labor, changing from the mainstream practice to the alternative method was a gamble. He admitted that the transition was a little difficult given that the soil in his farm became arid because of its long exposure to the chemicals.

"Only hard work can bring back the soil's fertility," Labor said. What helped the soil too, she was of animal waste mixed with rice hull.

He replenished farm of less than a hectare is expected to produce more than the usual. The farmer promised to throw a lavish party after "it will be a real big feast right inside the farm," he swore.

Labor, though a meager-earning farmer, would not be worrying so much about what to prepare for the feast with his twelve weekling piglets inside. One of the piglets, he said, will be butchered.

It is fitting enough for the said feast in the middle of the farm that is now lush with vegetables and fruits, to have inches (meat of pig) which is also organically-fattened.

The source generated from his entire farm are transformed into organic fertilizer through the Korean Technology Nature Farming System.

This system simply requires a farmer to compact a meter thick flooring made of sawdust for a 5m square cattle pigpen. This method is different from conventional hog cooking because if done properly, the piggies will not reek of waste.

The mixture of sawdust and swine waste on turned into organic fertilizer.

Cleaning the pigpen also does not demand high maintenance and time, unlike conventional swine rearing. Thus, the farmer can use his time for other farm work.

Other members of the organization also benefit from the project and the success of each member for each swine that gives birth to four piglets, one will be given to the organization for re-dispersal. Another option is for the piglet to be sold with the proceeds going to the funds of the organization.

Benefits

The swine was acquired through the hog dispersal project of the Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC), a non-stock, non-profit organization, in cooperation with the local government of New Corella.

Established in 1979 as a community service arm of the Davao Medical School Foundation (DMSF), IPHC aims to promote primary health care and address problems like landlessness, health, low income brought about by low farm productivity, and lack of livelihood and credit opportunities.

Labor said their group was constantly convincing others to observe and practice the method and ultimately organic farming.

He said he was confident God more and more people in New Corella will be receptive to the method and to the feast.

"I have been working on it and I am sure that when they see how my farm has improved since, they will surely follow," Labor said.

Hybrid rice as alternative

THE CHIEF OF THE Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has urged Davao farmers to abandon their traditional farming method and plant hybrid rice instead.

Leocadio Sebastian, PhilRice executive director, said during a recent visit to the provincial agriculture office that a shift to hybrid rice was the answer to the economic woes besetting farmers.

Alternative

Traditional farming methods should be abandoned and farmers should learn how to use technological advancements if they want their yield to increase, he added.

Sebastian said traditional varieties and methods only produce about 130 sacks of palay per hectare. But after deducting the cost of production from the proceeds of their harvest, which is between P20,000 and P50,000, their income drastically decreases, according to an agriculture official.

The official said hybrid rice farmers produce about double that output. Bibb S. Ignacio

Every Drop Counts !

The National Water Resource Board is set to reduce by August 15, 2007 the daily raw water allocation to Metro Manila from 41 cubic meters per second (CMS) to 39 CMS due to the continued drop in the Angat Dam water level arising from the abnormally low rainfall over the past months.

This will, in turn, reduce the daily water production of Maynilad Water's La Mesa Treatment Plants I and II by 10 % (from the average daily production of 3,000 million liters a day [MLD] to 2100 MLD).

First to be affected are those living in elevated areas of Maynilad's West Zone.

To help affected customers, Maynilad will provide water tankering service to waterless areas, put up stationary water tanks, and make valve adjustments to rotate and maximize available water. Leak repairs and the cutting off of illegal connections are also being intensified. Delinquent accounts reaching 60 days will also be immediately disconnected.

Meanwhile, Maynilad customers are advised to practice water conservation measures, including the recycling of water.

The Basics

Always make sure that all taps/faucets are tightly closed.

A tap left running wastes 300 liters of water every 5 minutes. Check for leaks regularly and repair immediately.

Recycle water. Use the rinse water from washing clothes or dishes for flushing the toilet, cleaning the car/garage, watering plants, or washing rags.

In The Kitchen

Soak greasy plates first in hot water. Wash slightly greased utensils first before the greasier ones.

Don't use running water to soak, soap and rinse your dishes or to clean fruits/vegetables. Instead, use a basin or fill up the sink halfway. If you must use the tap, turn it on only when you are ready to rinse.

Do not thaw frozen food under a running tap. Bring out frozen food early enough to thaw room temperature before cooking.

Use only the right amount of water to cook food.

In The Garage

When washing your car, use a pail, not a water hose, and a cotton rag instead of a sponge. Not only does this save water, a cotton rag is also friendlier to your car's paint job.

Don't hose down your driveway. Use a water pail and broom instead.

Also, minimize the number of times you wash your car.

In The Laundry

When washing by hand:
Soak heavily soiled clothes first to remove dirt easily.
Use a basin or washtub with the right amount of water.
Don't let the basin overflow under a running tap.
When washing by washing machine:
Wash with a full load only every other day.
Use only the necessary amount of detergent as that less rinsing is required.

In The Garden

Water your plants, garden or lawn early in the morning, late in the afternoon, or during the cool part of the day. Don't water during windy days or at high noon.

Don't operate water sprinkles during the warmest parts of the day; half the water will only evaporate.

Don't water too often. Grass does not need a lot of water. Never soak your lawn with water; soil cannot store excess water anyway.

In The Bathroom

In using the toilet, avoid unnecessary flushing. One flushing uses up to 20 liters of water. Place bricks or a water-filled and sealed plastic bottle inside the toilet tank, to reduce the amount of water being flushed.

In bathing, use a pail and a dipper (tabo) instead of the shower. If you must use the shower, turn off the water while you are soaping and shampooing and don't stay under the shower longer than necessary when rinsing. If you must use the bathtub, don't ever fill the bathtub.

Turn off the tap while washing/shaving or brushing your teeth. Use a glass of water to gargle. Use only short bursts of water from the tap to rinse your toothbrush or razor. This saves about 80% of the water normally used.

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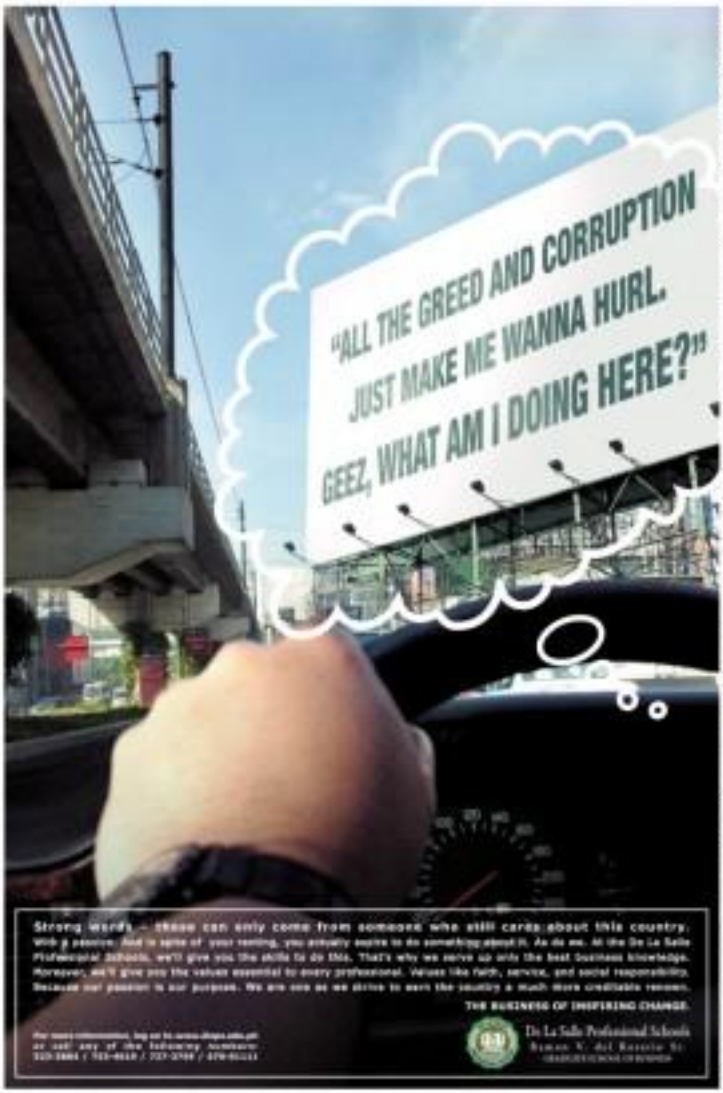
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS & SEWERAGE SYSTEM

NEWS

A mysterious symbol made of rattrazzen suddenly appeared on the floor of the SM Davao Atrium. This has drawn massive curiosity and buzz among mall goers.

NEWSBOYS GET HEALTH CHECK
The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Unilab Pharmaceuticals conducted free check medical mission for over 170 newsboys from Makati and La Piñas clicks at the Makati Fire Station on Ayala and EB Pozal avenues on Saturday. The missions are expected to benefit over 1,200 boys in nine days nationwide.



It's business as usual after Muntinlupa city hall fire

By Julie M. Aurelio

AMID THE BLACKISH REMAINS OF Muntinlupa City Hall, Mayor Aldrin San Pedro gave city officials three marching orders: Ensure smooth operations come Monday morning.

In an emergency meeting with department heads early yesterday, San Pedro directed the transfer of the mayor and vice mayor's offices to the ground floor of the People's Center, one of the three buildings in the City Hall compound.

A three-hour fire on Friday afternoon razed all but two offices in the city hall building, injuring two firefighters and three civilians.

One-stop shop

The treasury, accounting, city assessor and budget offices would be set up as a one-stop shop also in the People's Center to avoid disruptions in operations.

The Muntinlupa City Police Station, which was beside City Hall, will be temporarily moved to the Annex building. The third is office in the compound.

The detainees will be transferred to the Parañaque City Jail, San Pedro said.

The mayor said satellite offices would be set up in Barangay Alabang to minimize congestion in the City Hall compound.

"While our main's reality burnt City Hall, we are trying to ensure the offices will function as normally as possible," the mayor said in a phone interview.

The fire soared through nine floors in the administration building before the flames eventually reached the building.

The blaze destroyed the building's second floor where the mayor's office was located. Only two offices were spared—the treasury and the city assessor's offices on the ground floor.

Timing was 'suspect'

San Pedro ordered the city fire and police departments to thoroughly investigate the blaze, saying its timing was "suspect."

He said the fire may have been intentionally set, although he refused to elaborate.

"It's pretty unusual ... only two weeks before, city administrator Ebdueriz Bunyi was shot. And now our city hall burns down," San Pedro said.

Bunyi was shot and wounded in his ADV in the evening of July 24 by three men on a motorcycle. No motive has been established.

San Pedro assured Muntinlupa residents that important documents like birth certificates, marriage licenses, land titles and the building's computer server were spared in the fire.

"We will be able to reconstruct our records," he said.

The mayor ordered city architect Godwin Zapino to speed up plans for a new City Hall to be built in Barangay Alabang in front of Ospital ng Muntinlupa.

Damages in Friday's fire was estimated at P1.88 million.

San Pedro said he would seek assistance from Malacañang to restore operations at City Hall this week.

Aplus METRO

HOMESCHOOL LIFESTYLE

Learning moments outside the classroom

"LEARNING takes place 24/7... not only during 'class' hours."

By Stephanie B. Asuncion

IMAGINE A SCHOOL WHERE every minute of a child's waking hours can be turned into a "learning moment."

● where the teacher, who stroke, without pay in an endless 24/7,

● where classes are not suspended on account of bad weather,

● where you spend only P34,798 for tuition, plus P1,500 for miscellaneous fees and around P2,000 for textbooks a year, and

● where students spend an average of only three to five hours in the "classroom," depending on their grade level.

Impossible?

Not if you're a student of the Catholic Filipino Academy.

Based in Quezon City, the CFA, formed last year by Catholic lay preacher and best-selling author Ike Sanchez, is a homeschool provider that caters to preschool and elementary students.

Composed of a team of "Resource Coaches"—people with firsthand experience in teaching their children at home—it offers lesson plans, textbooks and a support group to parents who have decided to take on the daunting, yet rewarding task of educating their children themselves.

Ben Velasquez, CFA assistant director and Majorie Salvedia, CFA vice chairman for communi-

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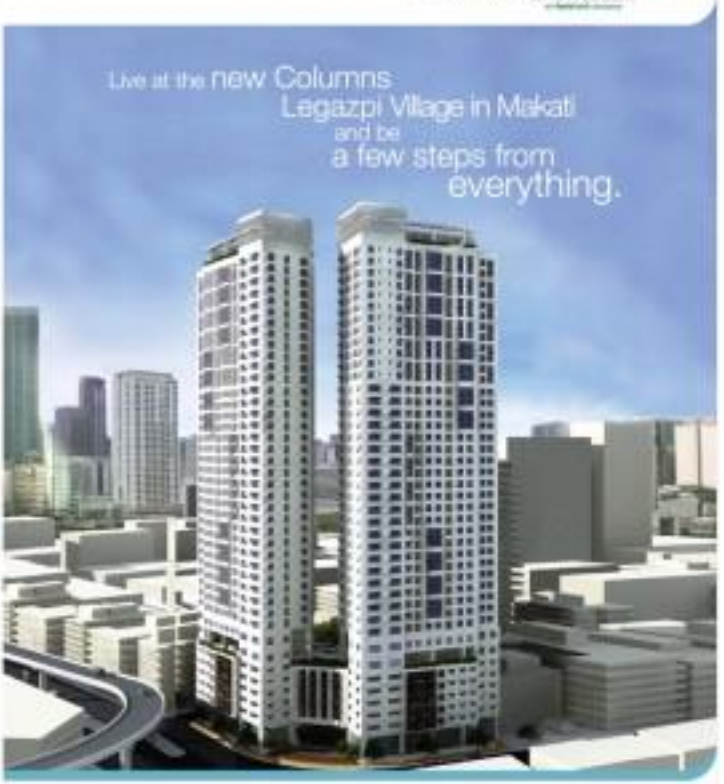

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Home is where school is

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR 10-YEAR-OLD THERESE Michelle Pantoja, summer means answering her workbooks at the kitchen table in her house and listening to the only teacher she has ever known: Her mother, Lizelle.

Since Therese began homeschooling Thirteen Days years ago, every day has become a wondrous journey of learning and bonding for mother and daughter.

"I really love to teach. When my other kids were enrolled [in] the day care [center], I would read to them at home," Lizelle told the reporter.

A former college instructor, Lizelle gave up her job when she became pregnant with her firstborn. Believing in early education for her children, the full-time mother sent her twin Sarah Andrea and Sarah Jane (nearly) school at the age of 2.

Breaking the mold

But Therese wasn't that she would give Therese a different learning experience.

"When Therese attended kindergarten school, I asked her if she wanted me to teach her at home," Lizelle said.

The 41-year-old mother recalled: "She was so excited at the prospect of studying at home. We did not have to commute [to school]."

For Therese, it means "I could spend more time with Mommy."

The fifth grader said an ordinary day in Bark Steinhaque City home usually begins with breakfast, then household chores and prayers.

"Our lessons begin at 10 a.m.," Therese said. On a recent Thursday, Therese spent the first hour of school exercises in electronic and problem-solving.

After Bible-study, Therese focused on reading comprehension. Her mom made her read a story and answer questions about it.

"Therese helped me cook lunch after we finished her morning lessons," Lizelle said, adding that the work allowed more bonding time between her and her daughter.

After lunch, they resumed Therese's lessons. The young girl just finished taking her quarterly test in Filipino.

"Therese is free to do the things she's interested in, like drawing and making beaded jewelry after her Filipino lessons," Lizelle said. She said the girl had already completed the requirements for English and three other subjects.

Student dictates pace

Lizelle said that with homeschooling, parents could adjust to the learning needs of their children. "If the child learns fast, we could move on to more challenging lessons," she said. On the other hand, if the child has difficulty in one particular lesson, the parent can spend more time on that subject.

Lizelle added that homeschooling lets parents adopt teaching styles not used in traditional schools. "Schools use the lecture style of teaching. Naturally, children who are good listeners excel in this setting," she said.

Pat's numerous studies on multiple intelligences coming out, more focus has been given to children with different learning capabilities.

"One of my sons, for example, is kinesthetic—he learns more by manipulating things," Lizelle said. She added that Therese was more auditory and visual, understanding things better if she could see them.

Lizelle said socialization was not a problem with homeschoolers. Therese, for one, has sessions across the street to play with. "Socialization does not mean that you only relate with people your own age," she explained. "Homeschooling gives children the opportunity to deal with older people and younger ones in a confident manner."

This year, Lizelle started homeschooling her three other children. The boys do their schoolwork from Monday to Thursday. "They have Fridays to themselves, and weekends for the family. In homeschooling, we can finish everything in four days," Lizelle explained.

Same values

After joining the Catholic Filipino Academy (CFA) last year, she said her children were exposed to families whose values were similar to theirs. "With CFA, we get to connect and share experiences with parents and children who have the same attitudes and values," she added.

Apart from ensuring that their pupils are able to enrich their knowledge and entrepreneurial skills, CFA also teaches children to serve others.

"By visiting a sick neighbor or participating in the community's religious activities, our children learn the value of service and grow up well-rounded, God-fearing individuals," Lizelle said.

FOR THERESE Pantoja, 10, (left), studying at home means "spending more time with Mommy"—Lizelle, who is also home-schooling her three other children.

Learning moments outside the classroom

Front page A-17

century, are rare of the school's parent coaches.

Nakagawa homeschooled her three children for nine years. The eldest is now a student of the University of Santo Tomas while her two other children, both boys, are enrolled in science high schools. Subsidia, on the other hand, is homeschooling her three sons, all in grade school.

Both mothers were handpicked by Sanchez to join the CFA staff "run by Home-school Parents for Homeschool Parents."

Self-learners

"The main essence of homeschooling is that it's a lifestyle," Nakagawa said. Parents impart their values to their children and tune them into self-learning by doing such moments a "learning moment," she added.

For example, a ride on the Metro Rail Transit can be used as a think lesson, Subsidia said. "When you ride on the MRT, you and your child, 'How much are we going to pay if the fare is P14 and there are four of us? How much change will you get if you have that much money?'"

Nakagawa added, "Learning becomes part of your lifestyle. Even after class hours, you teach your child. Learning takes place 24/7, not only during class hours."

What makes the CFA different from other institutions that also offer a homeschool program?

"We're the first Catholic homeschool provider. I think we were also the first to come up with lesson plans," Nakagawa said.

The translated Lesson Plans, developed by the parent coaches, are based on local textbooks to strengthen students' awareness of their culture and identity. The SLPs contain a schedule parents can follow for the whole year, including what subjects to take up, what books to read and what activities to embark.

"The lesson plans are a big help because it really takes time to make your own. It's easy to follow and serves as a guide so parents won't get lost," Subsidia said.

The SLPs follow the curriculum prescribed for each grade level by the Department of Education. CFA is accredited by the DepEd through its sister school, Fernwhich Academy.

This school year, the student enrollment in CFA went up by over 300 percent compared to last year, a remarkable take-over considering that they only advertise through word of mouth. They now have over 80 students, ages of whom are based abroad, some in the provinces while about 70 percent live in Metro Manila.

There are no entrance tests or requirements prior to enrollment because the CFA believes that "as long as the parent is committed, every child can be taught."

Parents who come to them do so for various reasons, like flexibility and of Tuition and other school fees. Some decided to opt for homeschooling because of their children's traumatic experiences in regular schools.

"One parent who came to us had a gifted child whom he felt was being held back in school. He homeschooled his son to learn more and to study at his own pace," Subsidia said.

'Hyper,' 'slow' learners

Homeschooling, she added, is very helpful for students with learning needs, particularly those branded as "hyper" or "slow learners."

"The parents disagree. They know that there's something more in their child so they say, 'Let's maximize his potential by getting him out of school,'" Subsidia said.

For Nakagawa, the decision to take charge of her daughter's education was due to the latter's many unpleasant experiences in traditional schools.

"My daughter was only in second grade when she came home crying, saying, 'Teacher told us that if we misbehave, she will put us in the school dungeons.' I'm all for disciplining children when they misbehave but you don't lie to the child, you always tell the truth," Nakagawa said.

She recalled another instance in which her daughter, who was then nursing a fever, still attended her classes because she had to take a test. "She vomited in class and the teacher made her clean it up. And to think that it was an exclusive, meaning ex-

ETUDENTE go to school once a week for group activities like art classes.

PARENTS who homeschool their children are provided with ready-made lesson plans and local textbooks.

pensive, school! You don't ask a child who is sick to clean up her own vomit," Nakagawa said.

At one time, her daughter encountered a bad teacher who she and her schoolmates were asked to clean up a pond with stagnant water near their classroom.

Nakagawa then decided that it was time to homeschool her child.

Good results

After some time, she said she began to see the fruits of her efforts. "When I pulled her out of school, she learned a lot. For instance, she had already made up her mind that she was not good in Math. But I was able to open her mind and now, she's asked to tutor her classmates. It's not because she's outspoken, it's because she understands what was taught to her," Nakagawa added.

Encouraged, she decided to homeschool her other children when they reached school age.

"My, would all sit at the dining table and I would start with my eldest. I would ask her to choose the subjects that she wanted to learn, teach her and then ask her to do exercises. I would then go on to the next child and do the same thing, move on to the youngest and then go back to the eldest. This would go on until we had finished all the subjects for the day," Nakagawa said.

For Subsidia, the decision to homeschool her three sons was made after she and her husband spent a lot of time praying and discussing the matter with their children.

At that time, her three boys were enrolled in separate schools and enjoying themselves while she was working as a teacher.

"When you're a student, you're out of the house the whole day. I was busy teaching and running my errands. Then I realized, here I am teaching other children but I'm not teaching my own kids. I was not spending quality time with my children," Subsidia said.

Fortunately, apart from their initial concern over leaving their friends in school, her three sons readily agreed to continue their education at home.

"Actually, there was less pressure since we didn't have to get up early in the morning. They [were also] brave enough, because although my sons enjoyed schooldays, you still had to spend on projects, field trips, baon, uniforms and textbooks," Subsidia said.

Strong bond

One advantage of homeschooling, both stated, is that due to the time a parent spends with her children, a strong bond develops between them.

"Because we spend a lot of time together, I have a very open and honest relationship with my boys," Subsidia said.

Nakagawa agreed. "My kids are now teenagers and not once did I feel them drifting away. My daughter would tell me, 'Mom, you're my best friend' while my second son would reveal crushes he wouldn't tell his siblings or their father."

For most parents who homeschool their children, the hardest part was letting them go back to regular schools.

This was true in Subsidia's case.

"The first quarter was always the most difficult because of all the negativity. At home, you build their self-esteem. You tell them who they really are, you don't diminish their strengths and you don't magnify their weaknesses. In school, it's the opposite. The teacher tells the student, 'You're not acing your exams' instead of saying, 'How can I help you, why are you having a hard time?' It's hard for them to-

(CONTINUED ON P. 9)

HOMESCHOOLING allows students to learn at their own pace.

NIGHTTY Subsidia (left) and Rina Nakagawa, administrators of the Catholic Filipino Academy.

PARENTS who want to teach their children at home can choose from several home-study programs that are being offered by schools or organizations.

Beginner's guide to homeschooling

By Stephanie R. Asuncion

ALTHOUGH HOMESCHOOLING IS CONsidered by many as a new phenomenon, it has been practiced for several centuries. Some well-known people who were homeschooled are physicist Albert Einstein, painters Leonardo da Vinci, composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, US President Abraham Lincoln and writer C.S. Lewis.

In 1997, Rebecca Sealfon, a 13-year-old homeschooler from Brooklyn, New York threw the homeschooling movement into the limelight when she won the National Spelling Bee. Another 13-year-old homeschooler, Anurag Kashyap of South Carolina, topped the National Geography Bee in 1999. The following year, 12-year-old George Thampy from Missouri, also a homeschooler, won first prize in the National Spelling Bee and second place in the National Geography Bee.

These children's impressive achievements consequently generated a lot of interest in the home study movement.

At present, homeschooling is practiced in several countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Penang.

Growing annually

In the United States, where homeschooling is legal in all 50 states, it was estimated in 2003 that there were between 1.2 million and 1.7 million children who were being taught at home by their parents. Although the figures accounted for only three to four percent of the population of the country's schoolchildren, it was noted that the number of home-taught children was growing annually by 15 percent.

Some of the reasons cited by parents who opted to homeschool their children were dissatisfaction with the public school system, negative peer pressure, religious, safety problems, drugs and alcohol use in schools and unruled classes.

The homeschooling movement has also caught on in the Philippines although there is no official figure on the number of homeschoolers nationwide. In recent years, several schools or groups have put up home study programs for parents who want to be personally responsible for their children's education.

Aside from the Catholic Filipino Academy, Inc. no. 725899(H), the Colegio de San Juan de Letran (527 7493 local 411) in Manila offers a home study program for elementary and high school students.

Self-learning modules

According to Marivic Hidalgo Valverde, program coordinator, they provide the students with self-learning modules which they study at home, either by themselves or with their parents.

Students are required to come to school at least twice weekly to take a test which will show whether or not they have mastered their lessons. They are given a grade after completing all the lessons in a subject.

Angelita de los Reyes, the principal of the school's elementary and high school levels, said that the home study program began in 2002.

"It started in high school because a lot of students inquired about whether it would be possible for them not to attend classes regularly, mainly because of their finances. Our rector suggested that Letran adopt the homestudy program of our sister school, Angelicum," she said.

The school charges its students P64,000 a year. Enrollment is open throughout the year.

The Living Heritage Academy (8329661), the homeschool department of the School of Tomorrow Philippines in Barangay Don Bosco, Tondaligue City has 1,200 students.

The best teacher

Benita Camacho, LHA director, said that they require parents to be personally involved in their children's education "because we believe that the best teacher for kids is their mother or father."

The LHA homeschool program is open to preschool (Grades 1 and 2), elementary and high school students.

Students pay a one time P15,000 contract fee and a P1,500 registration fee for the 12-year homeschool program.

There is a yearly tuition of P3,000 for students in the preschool and elementary levels; P1,500 for first to third year high school students and P4,000 for fourth year high school students.

The school keeps in touch with students and their parents through e-mail, phone calls and home visits.

At The Master's Academy Home School in Mandaluyong City (6320341 to 47), parents who want their children at home must be a college graduate and should not be employed full-time. They are also required to devote at least four hours a day to their children's education and one to two hours for preparing their materials, according to the school's website.

TMA-catered preschool (Grades 0 and 1) and elementary (Grades 1 to 7) levels. It charges P36,500 for tuition and miscellaneous fees and P10,000 to P17,000 for textbooks and modules a year.

Back to school

Not out of school youth or working students who are interested in getting a high school diploma, the Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School of Carriage Industries in Meycauayan, Bulacan (231 Mac-Arthur Highway called "Balik Paaralan (Back to School)."

"Our students learn their lessons through reference books and manuals. They do their assignments at home then report to class at least once a week for consultations with their teachers, to submit requirements and to take tests," Rosella Ortiña, Balik Paaralan chief (6420631), said.

The curriculum makes use of the Tesda's TESD (strengthened technical vocational education) program which places emphasis on the development of tech-voc skills. The school does not charge its students tuition but requires them to pass all of their subjects if they want to complete the four-year program.

Learning moments . . .

From page A18

cause they come from a very positive environment," she said.

"How ironic, you teach them to be passive and to be blind. Then you tell them that there will be people who will hurt you or who will have a negative influence on you," Rodrigues mused.

Two weeks ago, she learned that her youngest, a high school freshman who has a daily dose of P40, was handing P10 every day to a classmate who told him he needed him security.

"I told him that his classmate was taking him for a ride. He said that I was judgmental. But I was only trying to help because I pitied him," Rodrigues said.

She added, "But they learn to fend for themselves. They eventually learn to fight their own battles. That's the reason why my husband and I decided to put them back in regular schools."

Still, Rodrigues has no regrets.

"To be honest, while I was homeschooling my children, I wanted to give up. I would say, 'I'm so tired, I don't want to do this anymore.' But now that I'm done, I realized that I would not exchange it for anything. I would do it all over again," she said.

What advice can these two moms offer to parents for whom the idea of homeschooling may seem overwhelming?

"It's a calling. Every parent can homeschool, it's just a matter of having the right attitude and mind-set," Salvedia said.

"I have nothing to lose if you if you've come to realize that (this) is the best option for your children and if you think you can commit 101 percent to teaching your kids. It won't work out if a parent cannot make a commitment because you have to give up your career, you have to be on call 24/7," Rodrigues said.

She added, "During the time I was homeschooling, I didn't know if I was doing it right but I just kept at it. Even though I wanted to give up, I didn't because I knew I was holding the future of my children in my hands."

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"We have been successful in bringing the Filipino talent to OPM, Filipino songs, for one—even the ones dressed in their Sunday best would do laughing as they lip-synced to local artists tracking without, who knew about the uniqueness of the Pinoy."
—ANGEL BAUTISTA, Manila Hotel Int'l 2007

"Our workers is dedicated in Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea - in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world - and wherever work can be mentioned to secure a better life for their families. These are

This insurance expert who now works in Thailand refuses to call himself another case of brain drain, knowing that he would one day come back to the Philippines wiser and richer enough to help other Filipinos in the country

MAXIMO JOAQUIN (2nd from right), his wife Miriam (fourth from left), and their children and grandchildren enjoy a rare time of togetherness in Suan Wattana, a 15-acre open air and nature park in Thailand.

They gave him a car, a luxe condo, and a huge pay he couldn't refuse

By Rainer C. Tarabay Jr.

BANGKOK—HE LIVES with his wife in an upscale serviced apartment strategically in the heart of this booming city. But his company does not only pay for the luxurious rent. It also provides him with a personal car and a salary too big he would not even dare talk about it.

Together with a few kababayans here, 55-year-old Maximo Joaquin is shaping a new image for Pinoys working outside the country.

Joaquin works for an insurance and assets company he describes as the biggest in Europe but is currently ranked third in Thailand. He was brought here for a simple job: Make the company the first player in this country of over 60 million people.

Filipinos are easily generalized to caregivers or domestic helpers in other countries. Not here, Joaquin quickly says.

"The people here treat Filipinos with respect," he adds. "They look up to Filipinos. They regard Filipinos as career professionals."

If they are not working in big companies, Filipinos here are working as teachers, many specializing in English.

Still, Joaquin prefers not to call his presence here as a proof of "brain drain," as few others look at the stocks of learned Filipinos seeking better-paying jobs by serving countries over their own.

"Though people are going out [of the Philippines], when we come back, we are richer and wiser," he says.

Coach to senior executives

"The challenge is how to get these people involved in social life, in politics and in business," he adds, saying inside a very expensive restaurant just a few floors below his posh Universal apartment unit.

Joaquin believes he has already served the country, having worked in the local insurance business for over 25 years. He occupied top-level positions in local insurance companies in the Philippines and also started setting up his own.

It was his desire to work abroad, he says. "But I wanted for all of my [four] children to be united first before I pursued working abroad."

His wife Miriam is with him. They have been staying here for almost two years.

Joaquin says he works as a "coach" for the senior executives he sales. The only Filipino in the senior management level, he also acts as an "adviser to the company president on agency matters."

Language barrier

His barrier here is, a multinational company in the Philippines offered him the post two years ago, asking him to do the "head hunting" himself, or to bring in mass-trained managers.

It was an offer nobody could refuse. "They pay better here, plus you get free housing, cars, retirees bonuses and benefits," he says.

It has a deeper meaning for Joaquin though: "My decision (to work here) is for my career growth. I have worked for many companies (in the Philippines). There was nothing left for me to do there. I also wanted to work with other nationals," he adds.

Live his dream he does. His aspiration for a "multi-national environment." His chief executive officer is a Briton. The chief finance officer is a German. He is on the land of the Thais.

It was not a stroll in the park, however.

To settle down here also requires a way to overcome the language barrier so there are very few good English speakers in the community.

He would study some jokes and subordinates will just score at him. It is something he is trying to share...some sense of humor he says.

He says he has a secretary who also works as a translator.

Food cheap, fresh

The people make up for it however by being very friendly, peaceful and courteous, he says. International events might portray the country as politically stony with all the coup aftermath and protests, but Joaquin says Thai people are not violent.

He is willing to do, and has done, some adjustments. The food is usually very spicy, but Joaquin says he has learned to love the flavor though only up to just medium.

Nope, he never misses good Filipino food. His wife is a great cook he says, so he goes to eat outside, shopping and relaxing here whenever he wants to just the same.

"Compared to the Philippines, the quality of [food here is higher," he says. "Products are always fresh and cheap."

Joaquin says the inhabitants here is also very good, he has to not missing, not at all, the heavy traffic and the pollution.

There are a number of Filipinos working in other companies here on senior management levels, just like Joaquin. He usually recommends partners and positions, many of whom are his friends he got to see regularly when they organize house parties at their nearby units.

His superiors also find Filipinos "talented, flexible, easy to adapt and responsive." Filipinos also speak good English, he says.

Two of his four children are already working abroad. His youngest son also plans to do so. Could be his influence, he admits, since he also plans to work in other countries after his assignment in Thailand.

But he also plans to go back home someday and start his own company, something his children will hopefully do as well. In the meantime, he has a nice unit, a good car and a whopping salary to enjoy.

All-male Filipino choir based in Saudi Arabia tours China, France

By Ramon Jorge Sarmiento
Inquirer Mindanao

A FILIPINO'S LOVE FOR MUSIC DOES not necessarily end in his mother land.

Wherever he goes, he brings it with him and much more.

Such is the case of Peter Nate Estrada, an all-male and only Filipino a cappella choir based in Al Khobar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Founded in 2001, the choir is composed of Filipino professionals who took time to pursue their love of music and brought it to greater heights.

All 24 active members come from all over the Philippines.

"We have Davaoenos, Ilonggayons, Bicolnon, Pangasinenses, Ilocanos, Kapampangans, Visayans and Manilenos. I think every region is represented," said Rizenia Cabico, the group's choreographer.

Together with Rholand Dinda, the choir president, Cabico, who is a music degree holder, steered the group through many trials and challenges and came up with an award-winning choir.

Not bad for a group that had to make do with practicing in a member's house sitting room transformed into a rehearsal area three nights a week.

"If there's a will, there is a way" could be their motto since aside from the official "a choired experience, an acquired hassle"

Cabico cites the boundless spirit and brotherhood bonding that propelled them to reach musical quality and maturity. Consider what the audience has to say about performances as "they keep sing from the heart and you make us feel that you really enjoy what you are doing."

Filipinos, on the other hand, are grateful that they are assured to help them connect back home.

"They feel that through our songs, they are not so far away after all," Cabico said.

There is an international repertoire but they always include Filipino ballads knowing the kababayans on their doubly moving for them.

The best portion for challenges has brought them to perform not only in Saudi Arabia but to France to join a choral festival last year. Their most biggest accomplishment so far is bagging the bronze medal in the 4th World Choir Games in China, also last year.

"We have practically put Saudi Arabia on the choir map of the world," says the proud Cabico.

Most concerts in Europe are in the think of inspirations, and the forthcoming 5th World Choir Games in Graz, Austria.

For Cabico, those goals mean returning back as "we continue to hone our God-given talents (despite the limited space for cultural expression) and showcase how well we Filipinos adapt and hone in spite of this, we can still overcome both hindrances and experience communion with our brand of a cappella music."

Their songs, for sure, resonate warmly into the hearts of new and seasoned everywhere.

THE PHIPIC Male Ensemble, an all-male group of talents from Bicolnon, Ilocos, Pangasinan, Davao, Iligan, Pampanga, and Manila singing with one voice in a concert in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

AGUILAR is proud of his Most Outstanding Service Reporter Award from Philippine Quality Awards for Business Excellence at the Hotel Intercon in 2006.

Entrepreneur helps fellow OFWs invest their earnings

By Norman Cena

JUN AGUILAR MAY NOT BE CALLED A successful OFW entrepreneur by society's standards. He doesn't enjoy a lavish lifestyle nor does he own multimillion of cars and extensive real estate properties.

But he could give some charities a run for their money.

For almost 22 years now, Aguilar has been touching and changing the lives of Filipino overseas workers and would-be workers alike.

At 47, the former technical analyst in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, is actively running businesses in the country along with other Filipino expatriates who belong to the Filipino Migrant Workers Group or the FMW Group.

Since its inception in 1996, the FMW Group has been helping lots of overseas workers in channeling their earnings to worthy investment projects and business ventures in the country.

He is the chair and president of the FMW Group Holdings Inc., a business entity which has four operating subsidiaries: FMW Lending Corporation, FMW Marketing Corporation, FMW Human Resources International, and Fairness and Associates consulting firm.

Humble beginnings

As one of the pioneers, Aguilar recalls the humble beginnings of the organization.

The group, he says, started in Riyadh in 1996. It started in the International Philippine School in Riyadh where fellow Filipino working professionals would meet once in a while picking up their children from school.

"It was then when we realized we had simple resources and talents to come up with something for the reintegration of fellow overseas repatriates," he says.

In 1998, he went back to the Philippines to fulfill what the group had mentioned and promised during.

"When I came home, I saw the sad reality of OFWs who failed to invest their earnings in the country while some were in dire need to go abroad to augment their income. I thought the group could really help them out," he adds.

Coming home

Aside from the task delegated to him as one of the officers of the FMW Group, coming home was a past that was never written but he promised himself.

The enough, the vow was made the time when he stepped home after 13 years of toiling in the desert.

"It was a promise I held on to for years," Aguilar says. "I said I would never toil in abroad. Sentimental or not, I will head home before I get to age 40."

"To me it's a benchmark. It's time and age when I could assess what I have achieved. I'd go home no matter what, I swear," he adds.

That enough, belonging in the FMW group he was able to help and give a chance to his fellow repatriates and people dying to go abroad.

"I never dreame of earning millions," he says. "I just need a modest living wherein I could send my kids to school, get a house, save up for the future and hopefully help out the needy."

As one of the high-ranking officers of the group, Aguilar says he's not charging the fees to applicants seeking their help. Through their recruitment arm, the FMW Human Resources Intl., they were able to deploy Filipino workers all over the world mainly in the Middle East.

"For as long as I am seating on this chair, I wouldn't want the applicants to shell out even a cent. I know how it is to be the last piece whose only hope is to get a better life abroad," says the mechanical engineering graduate of Technological Institute of the Philippines.

It was in the same university where he caught before going abroad in 1985.

How he grew up

Aguilar says he had his share of life's difficulties while growing up being the youngest of six children to a carpenter and a part-time dressmaker in Bulacan.

"I didn't actually want to work there; I knew how it feels to be away from your family, more so, I was somebyound there," he says. "But the promise of a better life was enticing, so I went."

At 23 in 1980, and already a father to his first son, he was sent to Saudi to work at the King Abdulaziz Military Academy as technical analyst.

He later moved to the National Industrialization Company where he held various positions in the auditing, marketing, project management and procurement departments.

The FMW group has been very consistent, Aguilar says. He was sent home "We haven't got any problems at all," he says.

"Businesswise, our financial statements will prove that somehow we have earned our cost of the effort. The bottom sheet is healthy. We do business, yes, but without compromising the welfare of the Filipino people."

Life in Quezon City

To date, he is happily living in their Quezon City home with wife Jasmin and children, all of whom are involved.

Aside from the position he holds in the FMW Group, Aguilar is also the president and CEO of the Overseas Filipinos Communications Solutions Inc. and managing director of the Great Maritime Shipmanagement Inc.

In 2006, Aguilar joined in putting up theAlkinder Inc., a small-scale mining company in which he serves as its first vice president. He is likewise the managing partner of The Aquarium Company which is engaged in water purification and distribution business.

His with touch to their water refilling station in Quezon City.

And how does this busy guy spend his private time?

He says he just stays at home doing the household chores if not out with his family.

"I develop this hobby of fixing all the appliances and whatnot. In fact, I brought home all my carpentry and electrical tools from Saudi."

Asked of his future plans, Aguilar says he's planning to finish his remaining MBA units at the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business. He would also want to go back to working, which he considers one of his passions.

Aguilar holds office at Suite 804-805 Rex Manor II Condominium, 23 Edsa, Cubao, Makati; tel. no. 861-7990; fax no. 892 1123; 482 4843. E-mail him at jfmobile@yahoo.com.ph.

VISITWORTHY JASMIN and kids Jochen, Joan and John Francis.

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Bush signs antiterror bill with eye on Sept. 11

WASHINGTON — PRESIDENT George W. Bush signed legislation that intensifies the scrutiny of other countries' terrorist threats, shifting money to high-risk areas and others and expanding oversight of rail and mass cargo.

"This legislation builds upon the considerable progress we have made in strengthening our defenses and protecting America since the attacks of Sept. 11," Bush said in a statement on Friday.

The bill requires screening of all cargo on passenger planes within three years and sets a five-year goal of scanning all containers ships for nuclear devices before they leave foreign ports.

It also elevates the importance of risk factors in determining which states and cities get federal security funds. That would mean more money for such cities as New York and Washington. It also puts money into a new program to ensure that security officials at every level can communicate with each other.

While lauding Congress for passing the bill, Bush said he will continue to work with lawmakers to ensure the cargo screening provisions are workable and do not impede commerce. And he said Congress should strive to better target grant dollars to cities and states based on their vulnerability to a terrorist attack.

"This legislation, makes some progress, but it also authorizes billions of dollars for grants and other programs that are unnecessary or should not be funded at such excessive levels," Bush said in a statement. "I will not request this excessive funding in my 2009 budget request."

Bush signed the bill into law before heading to the 35th to have lunch with counterterrorism advisers and then talk with members of his homeland security team. "We've done a lot of work since September the 11th to make this country safe, and it is safer but it's not completely safe," he said at the FBI.

Bush spent this weekend at Camp David with Michael Kissal, the president of Afghanistan, where South Korean hostages are being held by the Taliban and where the Afghanistan-Pakistan border is considered a haven for the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Among its provisions, the bill requires the president to confirm that Pakistan is making progress combating al-Qaida and Taliban elements within its borders before the United States provides aid to the country.

The measure carries out unfulfilled recommendations that the Sept. 11 Commission made three years ago in the wake of the terror attacks on the US homeland in 2001. It was passed in the House on a 371-40 vote and 85-8 in the Senate. Republicans generally backed the bill while arousing their own administration's concern in preventing another major terrorist attack.

The independent Sept. 11 Commission in 2004 issued 41 recommendations covering domestic security, intelligence gathering and foreign policy. Congress and the White House followed through on some, including creating a director of national intelligence, tightening land border screening and resolving doubts on terrorist financing. Democrats, after taking over control of Congress, promised to make completing the list a top priority. AP

Specter of 2001-style foot-and-mouth scare hangs over Britain

LONDON — FARMERS HERE, anxiously to fearing a repeat of the 2001 outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which devastated the countryside economy.

The epidemic battered the farming and tourism industries, costing Britain's economy an estimated eight billion pounds (16.3 billion).

The grisly spectacle of piles of cattle carcasses ablaze on pyres and dark smoke filling the air became a familiar distressing sight across the country as between 4.5 to 10 million animals were destroyed.

The outbreak caused trauma and misery for farmers already hamstrung by the epidemic of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease), and many were unable to recover.

The rural tourism industry was blighted by the closure of public ways across open land, restrictions imposed to stop the spread of the highly infectious disease.

The army was called in to help deal with the crisis and over the general and local elections that was postponed, the first such delay since World War II.

A total of 2,026 cases of foot and mouth were confirmed the 2001 outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which devastated the countryside economy.

The first outbreak was confirmed in pigs at an abattoir in Essex, eastern England on Feb. 20, 2001. However, the epidemic's origin was traced to a pig cote in Northumberland, northeastern England.

By the end of March, up to 50 cases a day were being confirmed nationwide and outbreaks occurred elsewhere in Europe.

The government decided not to vaccinate animals.

Events and sporting fixtures were cancelled and disrupted across the British Isles, including the Isle of Man TT motorcycle race, Six Nations rugby union fixtures and the Cheltenham horse racing festival.

Analysis of the viruses which spread in Britain, Northern Ireland, Ireland, the Netherlands and France showed only minor differences, suggesting that the same strain (Type O, Pan-Asia) was responsible for them all. AFP

A DEAD cow is carried away with her harness, following a foot and mouth outbreak in Dorset, Britain's southernmost county on Aug. 7, 2001. Some 6 million cattle in England had been infected with foot-and-mouth disease.

Foot and mouth: A highly contagious disease

LONDON — FOOT AND MOUTH, which was confirmed on a British farm on Friday, is a highly contagious viral disease that affects all cloven-footed animals.

Cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer are among the animals which are most affected by foot and mouth, hence the emergency response to the outbreak on a cattle farm south-west of London.

The disease is "in gradually more infectious than any other disease affecting man or animals and spreads rapidly if uncontrolled," warns Britain's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Foot-and-mouth disease owes its name to the fact that the lesions it causes are found on the inside of the mouth and on the hooves of animals.

It is often spread accidentally, particularly about, but also by vehicles and agricultural roads, and farmers are aware of it having been a real fear.

The disease is endemic in parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America, with sporadic outbreaks in disease-free areas.

The disease is debilitating but not normally fatal in adult animals, although it can kill younger livestock.

In cattle, the virus grows in the mouth and membranes and, via the bloodstream, rearranges in the mouth and hooves, causing painful blistering. Symptoms also include fever and lameness.

The disease can cause a dramatic loss in milk production.

Rest and warmth is caused by a virus of which there are seven types, distinguishable only by laboratory tests, which each produce the same symptoms.

The interval between exposure to infection and the appearance of symptoms normally varies between 24 hours and 10 days. The average time is under a week. Animals are ill for three to six days, says Defra. AFP

Libya close to arms deals with France

PARIS — LIBYA IS SET TO BUY ANTITANK missiles and radio systems from European aerospace and defense group EADS and ships after a visit to Tripoli by President Nicolas Sarkozy, the French government said on Friday.

France appeared to abandon that the talks had been agreed in exchange for the release of a group of foreign medics held in jail for eight years for allegedly infecting Libyan children with HIV and freed hours before Sarkozy's visit.

Defense Minister Herve Morin said the groundwork had been laid under the previous French government which approved the sale of antitank missiles in February, before Sarkozy's victory in the May presidential election.

"Agreements have been granted in principle. As unless there is a technical disagreement of some kind, it will be done at any time now," he told France Info radio.

Other European countries including Britain have been working for defense deals with Tripoli but a Libyan source said the sale would be the first from a Western country since an EU arms embargo was lifted in 2004.

EADS said its MBDA joint venture with Britain's BAE Systems and Italy's Finmeccanica had finalized an accord to sell Libya Milan missiles, a portable, medium-range antitank weapon. It was also in advanced talks on co-supplying radios.

"The (missile) contract is awaiting the signature of the Libyan client, and EADS is happy that the negotiations could be concluded," EADS said in comments.

The company made no comment on the subject of the deals. A Libyan source said earlier they were worth a total of $402 million.

Sarkozy clinched an accord on defense and signed a memorandum of understanding for a nuclear energy deal during his visit to Tripoli.

The opposition Socialists called for a parliamentary commission of inquiry to evade Sarkozy's visit with the sale was linked to the release of the medics.

"There's a further question, which doesn't have to do with a commission of inquiry, which is, should we have arms deals with a country like Libya, ruled by (Muammar) Gaddafi," Socialist party leader Francois Hollande told France Inter radio.

Morin said criticism from the Socialists was intended to discredit Sarkozy's part in securing the release of the medics after a mission to Tripoli by his wife Cecilia.

"We're seeing a sort of systematic procedure to demolish a real French diplomatic success," he said.

Libya ended emerging from international isolation in 2003 when it agreed to halt a weapons program prohibited by the United Nations and pay compensation for the bombing of a US airliner over Scotland in 1988 in which 270 people were killed.

Sarkozy's spokesperson David Martinon denied any deal had been offered in exchange for the release of the nurses but said French aides to Sarkozy's visit had improved the climate between the two countries and may have helped the deal with EADS.

"It's true that President Sarkozy's state visit to Tripoli was very successful because the negotiations for freeing the nurses had gone through just before and it seems that greatly accelerated things to the benefit of French companies," he said. Reuters

Vinegar mighty weapon against cervical cancer

PARIS — A CHEAP AND simple screening test using the key ingredient in vinegar could help slash incidence of cervical cancer in poor countries, according to a trial conducted in India which is reported in Saturday's Lancet.

The method entails making a visual inspection of the cervix, using a speculum to peer in, then applying the vaginal walls, a bright halogen lamp and a solution of three- to five-percent acetic acid.

The solution is applied on the cervix, and suspect tissue shows up as white which lesions. Healthy tissue shows no colour change.

Doctors led by Rengaswamy Sankaranarayanan of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France, tested the method on 31,800 women aged 30-59 in the district of Dindigul, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

A total of 3,000 women were screened as positive, and were given further examination. AFP

As boomers' vision fades, the indignities grow

By Katie Hafner

ROBERT HAMILL USED TO laugh at his parents when he went over to visit them. At the restaurant he'd a menu with pictures, his father would point to one vaguely appealing image. For his longlived mother, Mamie, in his teens in the time, would hold the menu up two inches from the table.

Oh, how the tables have turned. Now when Mamie, 94, goes out to restaurants with friends, especially places with lighting that is easy on wrinkles but hard on vision, "it looks like an all-night study group," said Mamie, a novelist in Santa Monica, California. "We're talking off our glasses and rubbing our eyes, hunching over the menus with puzzled expressions, signaling the waiter for flashlights and candles."

Every day, thousands of the nation's 77 million baby boomer turn 50, an age when reading glasses are prefixed with some permanence as middle-age nears. Not surprisingly, the nation's deteriorating eyes have been a boon for makers of reading glasses. Jack Hanna, the owner of Chosen Reading Glasses, a retail store that carries reading glasses and accessories (and magnifying glasses), in Corte Madera, California, tells about 800 pairs each month.

Customer MacCormack, 53, circled her own eyewear and accessory company in Manhattan in 1999 when she noticed that people were walking around with their watches, jittery cell phones and $110 designer glasses. Her average $50 a pair, and business, she said, is great.

But glasses are of little help in the shower. Deborah Sigel, 53, a science teacher in Castro Valley, California, counts the number of letters to figure out whether she is reaching for the shampoo or conditioner. Jill Lamar, 55, an acupuncturist in Charlottesville, Va., goes by color.

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs can be more problematic.

The type size on a bottle of Aleve, for instance, is 4.5 point, with around 50 to 55 characters an inch — smaller than the fine print in the stock listings of newspapers.

There's a fight between Insurance.com's desire to put more information on the container and the size of type required to get it on," said Charles Bigelow, a professor of typography at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Lamar acknowledges some latitude when it comes to being a boomer. "We still buy things, and as long as we keep buying things, they'll pay attention," she said, referring to the manufacturers of consumer products. "When we all go on pensions they'll drop us. We have to use our power now." NYT

MARS, HERE WE COME
This artist's rendering shows the Phoenix Mars Lander's powered landing on Mars. The Phoenix Mars Lander was scheduled to blast off on Aug. 4 aboard a rocket for a journey to Mars that takes nearly 11 months and cover 422 million miles.

A GROUP of Afghan women visit in burqas walk towards a market in Ghazni on Aug. 4. Afghanistan's Taliban, who are demanding that some of their men be freed from jail in exchange for the 21 South Korean captives they are threatening to kill, have agreed to talks with Seoul officials, but are refusing to meet them in government-controlled territory. AFP

Taliban want neutral venue for hostage talks

GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN—AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban was holding out Saturday for a neutral venue for talks with South Korea over the fate of 21 hostages they are threatening to kill.

The al-Qaida-linked militants, who are demanding that some of their men are freed from jail in exchange for the captives, have agreed to talks with the South Koreans, but are refusing to meet them in government-controlled territory.

The South Korean aid workers, most of whom are female, are said to be ill after being held for more than two weeks in unnerving southern Afghanistan.

Two are said to be in a serious condition, but the hardliners on Friday refused to allow any Afghan medical team access to them.

The dragging crisis was set to overshadow talks beginning on Sunday in the United States between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his 43rd counterpart George W. Bush.

South Korea is pressing the US to intervene in the crisis and has sent eight senior legislators in Washington to rally international support for its efforts to save the Christian aid workers. Two of the group have already been killed.

The rebels say they have been in regular contact with South Korea, which has told them it is doing what it can to pressure Afghanistan and the US to drop their objections to a prisoner exchange.

"They told us that they are in negotiations with the Afghan and American governments to convince them to free Taliban prisoners in exchange for the South Korean hostages," Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP on Friday.

The Taliban would agree to talks if they were held in areas that the rebels control, in another country or under a UN guarantee of a "safe escape" for its representatives, he said.

The hardliners said after the latest deadline expired Wednesday they had not killed any more hostages, as they waited for direct talks with the South Korean delegation.

Seoul has, however, made it clear it has little room to manoeuvre.

"The Korean government is not in a position to give a direct answer to the Taliban's demand that its prisoners be swapped for Korean hostages," presidential spokesperson Chun Ho-Seoo said Friday.

The Afghan government has refused to release Taliban fighters, saying it could encourage kidnappings.

The United States reiterated the government never a prisoner exchange in March that has been blamed for a recent rash of abductions, some said to have been carried out by criminals.

A 42-year-old German engineer is also being held, along with four Afghans, by separate militants who are said to have close links to the Taliban. He was seized with another German, who collapsed and was then shot dead. AFP

Floods continue to engulf South Asia; 10M homeless

DHAKA—AT LEAST 216 PEOPLE HAVE died in monsoon flooding in South Asia in the last 10 days, officials said on Friday, while more than 14 million remain homeless or marooned in their villages, many without access to health care.

The threat of water-borne diseases is rising, with many villagers out all for days. Some people have been thrown by snakes driven by the surface by the waters, others have been crushed under the rubble of their homes, and many have drowned.

More than 35 million people are affected in the crowded and largely impoverished region. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the floods were causing havoc and chaos and could be the worst in living memory in some areas.

"The sheer size and scale of flooding and massive numbers of people affected poses an unprecedented challenge to the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian assistance," UNICEF said.

Rural medical infrastructure has collapsed in many areas. In India's impoverished eastern state of Bihar a number of pregnant women in flooded areas gave birth in stillborn babies.

"There is little one can do as nearly half of the 333 health centres in remote districts have been swamped," said Sushmasree Singh, a senior health official.

Residents said they were facing a shortage of medicines and food in Bihar, where officials announced late on Friday that around 30 million were affected, hundreds of thousands of them homeless or cut off.

Almost people died in the state of around 90 million on Friday.

"Shelter, access to fresh water, food, emergency medical supplies and basic household items are urgently required—especially given the loss of infrastructure including basic health units and hospitals," UNICEF said in a statement.

Across the subcontinent more than half of Bangladesh is flooded, and nearly seven million of the 30 million affected there have been evacuated or moved from their homes, officials said.

Eleven people died in flood-related incidents overnight, and the rising waters swallowed low-lying areas of the capital, Dhaka.

In Manikganj town, south of the capital, people knee-deep in water shifted household items into boats.

"The situation is getting worse every hour," said local journalist Nijhuh Chakravarty.

Authorities said more than 300,000 hectares of crops had been affected.

In India's northeastern state of Assam nearly three million are displaced or marooned—more than 10 percent of the oil- and tea-producing state's population. Officials there warned of outbreaks of diarrhea and malaria.

Thousands camped out on highways and river embankments and on patches of dry land, surrounded by huge expanses of muddy flood water. Reuters

RESIDENTS of inundated Kurmitola in Bangladesh on boats dad together on a makeshift bridge to cross the Buriganga river on Aug. 4. REUTERS

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The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Cuaso

'Miracle': Bridge death toll much lower

MINNEAPOLIS— MORE than 100 cars and trucks and a school bus crawling bumper-to-bumper on a bridge that suddenly crashed into the Mississippi River seemed like a recipe for a massive death count.

But on Friday (nine what this city's fire chief called a miraculous turn of events) the prospect that relatively few lives were lost.

Divers still searched through the swirling, muddy currents for cars and bodies. However, the official death toll remained at five from Wednesday's collapse, and authorities cast doubt on an earlier estimate that as many as 30 people were missing. They said it could even be as few as eight.

Of the roughly 100 injured, 20 remain hospitalized, and only five were critical.

"We were surprised that we didn't have more people seriously injured and killed," Fire Chief Jim Clack told The Associated Press. "I think it was something of a miracle."

Clack cited a list of reasons: a bridge design that minimized falling debris, a quick response by rescue crews and the rush-hour crowd that gave vehicles little momentum to plunge into the river.

In addition, the fact that the speed and depth of the water in the Mississippi River were much lower than normal on the day of the collapse—largely the result of a drought. That may have made it easier for people to escape the disaster.

DIVERS and rescuers search on Aug. 3 for victims near the rubble of the Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis, which collapsed in the Mississippi River on Aug. 1. AP

"It's a horrible, tragic event that could have been a hell of a lot worse," said Ron Harriss, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Engineering.

Minnesota officials say they do not yet know how many cars were traveling the span during the collapse. But judging by the length of road, the lanes that were open, time of day and widely accepted traffic formulas, Northwestern University engineering professor Joseph Schofer estimated that between 300 and 500 vehicles were on the bridge.

Despite the low death toll, divers were still connecting with a treacherous combination of sunken cars, broken cliffs of concrete and jagged rebar as they searched for bodies.

Firefighters pulled the fifth victim, the driver of a tractor-trailer that was engulfed in flames, from the wreckage late Thursday. Video of the burning rig—now down in the current between two backwater islets—was among the most compelling images shown in the immediate aftermath of the collapse. The driver was identified as Dan Holtzbauer, 51.

The missing included a 20-year-old pregnant woman and her 2-year-old daughter, who were in the back seat of the family's car when the bridge crumbled. AP

High-tech devices to solve collapse mystery

MINNEAPOLIS—INVESTIGATORS WILL use everything from a three-dimensional laser imaging device to magnifying glasses as they work to solve the mystery of why a bridge collapsed over the Mississippi river.

A security video tape which captured the sudden collapse will be enhanced frame by frame to determine what happened in a span of just three or four seconds, leaving at least five dead and nearly 180 people injured in Minneapolis on Wednesday.

That tape will be compared to a series of computer-generated collapse scenarios so investigators can see how closely the actual span by piece by piece to see how and where it would fall.

As early and critical clue came on Friday when investigators were able to determine that the south end of the bridge had shifted about 15 inches as it collapsed while the rest of the bridge appeared to have collapsed in place.

"I am not saying the 30-foot shift caused the fall," National Transportation Safety Board chair Mark Rosenker told reporters. "We have a long way to go."

A failure at the northern end could have shifted loads to cause a collapse at the southern end, he explained, but it would be months before any real answers will emerge.

The clue will save the NTSB mountains of work as it means they will no longer have to reexamine the bulk of the bridge but can instead look at sections and pieces they are "most interested in," he said.

It will still be at least a year before any answers are found, Rosenker said. But, he added, he supposed the collapse was "no accident" and that nothing else had been ruled out.

The NTSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating all significant transportation accidents—aviation, rail, highway, marine and pipeline—to determine the cause and if changes can be done to prevent similar accidents from occurring. AFP

From engineering faults to Iraq war: Blame-tossing begins

MINNEAPOLIS—POLITICIANS TRYING to account for one of the worst bridge collapses in US history cast blame regarding engineering faults on the Iraq war on Friday.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty said outside experts would review the decisions of state engineers to shore up problems with the heavily travelled 40-year-old bridge in several Minneapolis.

Engineers had decided to partially inspect the steel superstructure before the Interstate 35W bridge and not on reinforcing plates where any flaws were found. But that work, which Pawlenty said fit in the state's budget, was postponed by resurfacing and repair work that was going on when the bridge buckled and fell.

"Experts that we rely on, technical experts and engineers, made some decisions about what needed to be done. They thought they were making an appropriate decision for their reasons, and now those decisions will have to be reviewed," Pawlenty said. A private engineering firm had been hired for the review.

US Rep. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat, suggested Bush administration spending on the Iraq war may have stripped funding for domestic projects such as road and bridge construction, and for such infrastructure projects as new levees for New Orleans.

"We've spent $500 billion in Iraq and are have-nothings falling down in Minneapolis," Klobuchar told MSNBC. "I see a connection between misused up priorities."

"It is not fixing the bridge was carrying a load of traffic it was not designed for," said the Democratic Speaker of Minnesota's House, Irene Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher. Reuters

HP introduces Citrix-optimized, space-saving Thin Client

Manila, Philippines –The HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client optimized with Citrix Application Delivery Infrastructure is an ideal access device in server-based computing environments. Perfect for customers that need compact yet powerful user-interface solutions. The t5720 delivers desktop-like features and support for local applications in an attractively small chassis that can be set either vertically or horizontally, making the t5720 perfectly at a desktop or mounted conveniently on a wall or under a desk.

As you deliver key applications to more users in more places, the t5720 can help you increase security and reliability across your Citrix environment – while providing users with the familiar look and feel of a desktop PC experience. As the most since Citrix Systems and HP have been helping customers gain the benefits of consolidated, easier-to-use access to applications for over 10 years, you can go about your deployment with confidence, knowing you can count on Citrix application delivery and HP for your remote computing solutions.

"The HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client with Citrix Application Delivery Infrastructure is an ideal interface solution for businesses that need secure and reliable application delivery. It delivers powerful, versatile features in a compact footprint at an affordable price," said Bernadette Navarro, PSG country general manager HP Philippines.

Better security with Thin Client computing

The inherent capability of the HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client means no data is ever lost on the device, so that if a Thin Client is stolen or lost, the data you value can remain secure on your network. For added peace of mind, the t5720 supports a variety of smart card readers, including the HP Smart Card Keyboard, enabling two-factor authentication for more secure network access. Remote t5720 configurability lets you lock down Citrix ports and user access from a centralized management console. More sensitive drivers can also be disabled in the BIOS or software image to provide a more secure client. HP Sure Security Agent is also preinstalled to provide multi-layered security with an application-specific firewall, application control, intrusion-prevention, and policy-enforcement.

Increased reliability

The HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client can help heighten the overall reliability of your computing environment because it has no moving parts – none of the fans, hard drives or optical drives of a traditional PC. This can result in real savings as you lower the likelihood of hardware failure, thereby reducing the frequency of desktop support and technical visits.

As part of a rigorous testing program, HP and Citrix have worked closely together to help optimize the t5720 with Citrix Application Delivery solutions right out of the box. Initial deployment is easier, thanks to HP's automated setup and configuration technology. For example, running in 'automated' mode, you can immediately obtain an HP Thin Client to the network to download settings automatically. HP Thin Clients are also optimized for use with the latest Citrix ICA clients, as well as HP PCs, notebooks, PDAs and handhelds – so they can be deployed as part of your enterprise-wide thin client environment.

Centralized management

With the HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client's Altiris Deployment Solution, you can deploy, administer and configure all Altiris agents and applications from a central location. Altiris also allows you to manage a distributed, multi-vendor environment of thin clients from a single console, or from a browser on any web-enabled device from nearly anywhere.

Altiris automates many common functions, like updates to registry settings or BIOS configurations. Unlike some thin clients, all HP Thin Clients have their BIOS on a discrete BIOS chip so you can maintain, modify or flash the image without the need to boot the BIOS.

HP Flexible Toolkit lets you make changes or software images or settings in one 'master' client, then capture them on a USB flash drive or on the thin client itself. From there, they can be easily deployed to targeted thin clients. The tool also lets you back up custom settings on a USB flash drive for easier recovery, and works with a variety of tools within your familiar FTP/HOP environment.

Pricing and availability

The HP Compaq t5720 Thin Client is affordably priced at just P26,995.00 (VAT), and is backed by HP's 3-year warranty on labor, onsite and parts. For more information, contact your nearest HP supplier.

About HP

HP focuses on simplifying technology experiences for all of its customers – from individual consumers to the largest businesses. With a portfolio that spans printing, personal computing, software, services and IT infrastructure, HP is among the world's largest IT companies, with revenue totaling $91.1 billion for the four fiscal quarters ended April 30, 2007. More information about HP (NYSE: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

After Katrina fiasco, bridge visit a new chance for Bush

WASHINGTON—IN TIMES OF DISASTER, presidents are expected to be comforters-in-chief, yet since Hurricane Katrina President George W. Bush has a frustrated record in that role.

He reacted quickly to the Minnesota bridge collapse by scheduling a visit, but only after an awkward initial response in which the White House emphasized that fixing structural deficiencies was the state's responsibility.

Neither the president nor the Democratic-led Congress wants to be seen as repeating the mistakes of Katrina, when the early federal response was slow and bumbershoot. Nor do they want to be perceived as playing politics with a tragedy.

There is little doubt that the collapsed bridge over the Mississippi River will be rebuilt a lot quicker than the hurricane-devastated city near that river's mouth, New Orleans.

Congress on Friday was working on legislation to provide $250 million in emergency money. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill Wednesday, and a similar bill stood ready in the Senate.

And Bush's plan to visit Minneapolis on Saturday—a day after a visit from first lady Laura Bush—follows a recent pattern of prompt trips to disaster scenes.

So, sometimes in its early sessions the White House has seemed politically tone-deaf.

For instance, the administration had to backtrack after initially blaming Kansas' Democratic governor, Kathleen Sebelius, for a slow response to a devastating tornado on May 4 in Greensburg, Kansas.

Sebelius had complained that National Guard deployments in Iraq had hampered the state's ability to respond. White House press secretary Tony Snow then said that Sebelius failed to request help from the federal government, saying "as far as we know, the only thing the governor requested are PR outfits."

"Finger pointing and back-and-forth is not helpful to anybody," Sebelius responded. Snow backed down, Bush visited Greensburg.

In any finger-pointing in the Minneapolis bridge collapse, the White House risks offending a Republican governor, Tim Pawlenty.

Pawlenty on Thursday ordered an immediate inspection of all bridges in the state with similar designs to the fallen I-35W bridge—but said the state was never warned that the collapsed bridge needed to be closed or immediately repaired.

It is suggestive that anybody who didn't see the national scope of the widespread decaying of US infrastructure was "naive or misleading."

Neal C. Light, a professor of public service at New York University, said the White House is "so much on the defensive right now that I think their initial reaction was to say, 'We just don't want to be blamed.'" AP

Sunday SPORTS

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Chakvetadze ousts Venus /A26

RP Taulava (center) fights for the ball with China's Yang Wang in their Pilipinas Asia match for ninth place Saturday in Tokushima. AFP/EPA

RP trips China anew, tops consolation pool

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN—KELLY WILLIAMS sank two free throws with 2.7 seconds left as Jun Majorel RP Jumbeers set a nail-biting 78-76 triumph over China Saturday to clinch ninth place in the Fiba Asia men's basketball championship at the Aizy Yokushima.

Williams, who was fouled as he scored for a layup on a lead by Jimmy Alapag, broke a 76-76 tie Chinese sniper Chen Chen forged with a triple and the streak of bad luck that hounded the Filipinos here ended when Wang Feng missed an open three-point shot at the buzzer.

Dennis Seigle also shared the spotlight with Williams, scoring 20 points—12 in the first period alone—and making a pivotal basket in the crunch to give the Philippines a 76-73 cushion with 59 ticks remaining in the game.

"We did what to end the two-month on a good note," said Seigle, who missed a semi-titled to the national team that played in the Busan, South Korea Asiad Games after suffering a sinus lacs adidas tendon just days before the squad was to depart for the event.

What followed after Chen tied the game with still 45 seconds left was a series of great breaks for the Filipinos, which effect a couple of crucial non-calls that gave China the opportunity to put the game away.

Ani Taulava's shot in the ensuing play was tapped out of the basket off the glass by Chen, and no goal-tending violation was situated. A foul was later slapped on Dondon Hontiveros, passing forward Li Ke, who notched the 10 points in the final period, on the line.

Li, who was a surprise in a game that saw Taulava—notorious for his bonding hacks from the sniper—miss just once out of eight attempts, flubbed the two freebies to keep the score knotted with 16 ticks remaining.

Alapag went for a hard drive and was bumped by two defenders on the next play. Again, no whistle. Again, Jun Majorel Philippines committed a foul that put Wu Qian on the line. Again, Wu missed both freebies.

"Heroic junior," said national coach Chot Reyes, whose boys lost in their first meeting with the Chinese in a special first match-to-cost turnout in Manila just before the champs' worship where Alapag blew-zero shooters in the dying seconds.

"I think [with the win], we gained some measure of respect from the other 14 participating teams," said team manager Robert Jaworski. "This team showed that it is worth supporting and Jun Majorel will always be ready to support the national team."

"Nobody can boast of having beaten China twice in this tournament," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala, adding that the victory helped raise the seconds that Seigle said will evaluate open and tune up until a week after all this is over.

The Filipinos, who took an early 75-69 decision from Iran, beat the Chinese, represented by their B team, in their first meeting here, 79-74, but a loss to Jordan the next day relegated them to the consolation round pool.

MORE / A26

MORE / A26

Alcano gains semis

SUMIDO ALCANO STROKED Chinese Taipei's Chao Fong-pang, 6-2, to make the semifinals of the Guimaras V-ball tour in Zhangjiagang yesterday.

The six-foot Bicolano ballyard V-ball champion will now compatriot Lee Yuan Gowan in the Guimaras-grand finals if he beats Shi Hsiang-Wan of Korea today.

Cochiza is tied with Japanese Shunsyi Oi, Fijei and Singaporean Chan Yeow-Seang at 100 points to the order of merit going into today's matches.

Corona has a superior spreiker and holds the edge for the 10th and last berth in the Aug. 11 dispatch finals which offers $16,000 to the champ. A berth in the top 12 also means a stint in the Season-ber 2007 World V-ball Championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Roberto Ocampo was not so lucky as he bowed to Taiwanese Yang Hung-chun, 9-8, and missed out on a chance to make the main draw. Ocampo settled for 90 points in his third straight quarterfinal exit. Marlon Bernardino

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Mayol eyes IBF title today

FILIPINO BODEL MAYOL WILL ATTEMPT to become the country's third world champion when he challenges IBF junior flyweight titlist Thomas Dulorme today at the 17,000-capacity All-State Arena in Rosemont, Illinois.

The bout, which will be aired starting at 10 a.m. over ESPN2, is in the undercard of the Erik Morales-David Diaz WBC lightweight showdown dubbed "Nite for 4."

Both Golik (16-1-2, 14 KOs) and Mayol (21-3, 18 KOs) came in at an even 108 lbs during the official weigh-in held yesterday in Chicago.

The 25-year-old Mayol from Mandaue City is hoping to become the third IBF world champion this year after IBF minimumweight king Ana Marcela Cosme and IBF 2000 flyweight titleholder Nonito Donaire, who triumphed last month.

Today's title clash is the second for Mayol, the reigning OPBF minimumweight champion, who lost by decision last year in his attempt to wrest the WBC minimumweight crown from Filipino Wonrie of Japan.

Mayol, however, has indicated he is better prepared this time, and now himself is a solid position to dethrone Golik, the younger brother of Jorge Golik, who was stopped in eight rounds by Manny Pacquiao recently in Texas.

To prepare for Golik, the Mandaue City native's Mayol trained at the Top Rank Gym in Las Vegas under new trainer Kenny Adams.

However, unlike boxing matters had Mayol as a dour underdog, but the Filipino remained unfazed.

"Mahigpit ito siyempre pero ang gimatra ko para sa laban na ito, kinis ko kaya ko siya (It is hard but my training for this fight, I know I can beat him)," said the Filipino fighter.

Betsaida Concepcion and Maricris Gorre, the two other Filipinos seeking action in the card, breezed through their respective weigh-in schedules.

Concepcion tipped the scales at 110 lbs while opponent Gabriel Rhonda checked in at 110 for their WBF super bantamweight title showdown.

Gorre came in at 130 lbs while opponent Carlos Madrid was at 132 for their non-title tiff.

After the weigh-in, the three had fish and buns, according to Quinga-based Belinda Nino, who brought some food for the fighters, as well as some Philippine flag pouches to be distributed to the fighting trunks. — Gabriel L. Lagumbay, Goole Bueno

BODEL Mayol (right) resists Glenn Solis after yesterday's weigh-in.

TALE OF THE TAPE

MAYOL		SOLIS
25-3, 18 KOs	Record	24-1-0, 19 KOs
25	Age	25
Mandaue City	Hometown	Juarez
Orthodox	Style	Orthodox
5'5	Height	5'4
108¼	Weight	108
Mandaue City	Hometown	Guadalajara, Mexico

Ethics body tackles Noli's disbarment

EVEN SINCE THE NEWS OF PBA COMMISsioner Noli Eala's disbarment broke out in the media, people have not stopped rolling and tuning in.

Both for comments and inquiries.

The comments, I'd rather keep to myself. Suffice to say that his friends are in deep sympathy with him, one veteran media man getting so far as to say that he wouldn't wish such a fate to befall even to his worst enemy.

He marries out of course not an idiot, most of them intelligent to get running in the streets when they hear the news.

* * *

Personally, I didn't want to touch the very sensitive issue but I be accused of bias.

And neither did friends prompt me to do so although that strength had that I should share what I learn regarding the moves the PBA board is inclined to take.

While there have been so much in question, the PBA has been very quiet so far. The official word yet from PBA chairman Eddy Vargas who has been discussing phone calls, one from any of the governors, since the Supreme Court announcement.

Neither has Noli issued a statement even to the members of the press who are with him in Thailand for the Asia Pilot Area Men's championships where we are now fighting for 9th place against China, host of the 2008 World Olympics.

Incidentally if I may say so, national coach Chot Reyes turned out to be correct when he said that China can be beaten.

We beat the Chinese in the preliminaries in Uzbekistan and have a chance of duplicating it in the consolation round (JP won more, 78-76, Ed).

* * *

I understand that PBA chairman Eddy Vargas, who refuses to comment until August 10 when he will meet with members of the executive and ethics committee at 4 p.m. today...a Sunday...at the Alba Shangrila Business Center.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, but my assumption is that some members of the board or perhaps Eddy himself wanted to postpone it for a later date but the public assistance to be mailed by some avatar that came out in the papers which were not true.

I am referring to reports about the opposing inclination of the faithless—one in favor of retaining the commissioner's services, the other of disqualifying the latter.

The meeting will determine what course of action the board should take based on the assessment of the ethics committee headed by Pinehurst governor Bens Bocho.

"The matter will have to go through a process," cautioned Mong Pardo, who spoke in the presence of other members of the board in the premises where it convene today.

* * *

On the lessons of the commissioner, somebody from the PBA office said it is good tap to the entire 2008, while a high-ranking team official swears it is top for several of the end of Mr. Vargas' term as chairman.

For sure this matter will be verified when the board meets this afternoon. Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado, who is vacationing in Subic, meanwhile, with wife Judy, will be represented by lawyer Ariel Magno.

The Encarnados are not expected to be back in Manila until the 15th.

* * *

Meanwhile, Commissioner Eala and the Philippine team are expected to return from Yokohama on Monday, August 6. A welcome reception is being by PBP secretary-manager Rudolfo Ang awaits them at the San Miguel Building in Pasig at 2:30 p.m.

The delegation is expected to go straight from the airport to the reception, where the members of the PBA board have been invited.

Morales seeks boxing history

CHICAGO—ERIK MORALES' PULL TO 35 become the first Mexican fighter to win world titles in four different weight classes here Saturday when he challenges World Boxing Council lightweight champ David Diaz.

Not even Mexican legend Julio Cesar Chavez accomplished the feat, and Morales' time may be running out.

Morales has suffered the only two stoppage defeats of his career in his last two fights - both against Filipino Manny Pacquiao.

"In a fighter you always think about world titles, maybe just fighting for one, let alone winning one," Morales said. "And I've had the opportunity to win three in different weight classes against the best of those weight classes.

Morales, with a record of 48-5, has held world titles at junior bantamweight, featherweight and super featherweight classes. AFP

WINNER: Swedish Stefan Holm leaps 2.20 meters to win the men's high jump during the Norwich Union London Grand Prix at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in south London Friday. — AP

Tough top pick call—Austria

By Herang B. Carillo

FOR WELLCOAT COACH GEO Escoria, his No. 1 selection in the coming PBA Draft will depend on the kind of player his Dragons need most.

Austria will decide on Aug. 19 his top pick from among Enrique Enano, Ken Bono, JC Intal and SL Amonsolo Jnr. Jo-Ar Ngamsi and the former PBA Rookie of the Year has two weeks to decide since what will make Melrose tick.

The four PBA teams slate Sept. 21 with a "Super Sunday" where all 10 teams will see action in opening day in the country's three major islands. Four will play in Manila, two in Cebu and another two in Cotabato.

"It's still a tough call for us," Austria told the Inquirer. "Right now all four are worthy of being chosen. But I think that we are really sure to do is to get the player we really need."

Austria noted that Jay-R Reyes is the only real "scoring machine" of his team and he admitted that he liked what he saw in former UNIF MVP Ben Bono, whom he believed will be led silverware to the Final Four last year.

But topping the lady-faced mainstreet's would mean topping much of Reyes' abilities in the offensive end as Bono loves to lace the ball from hands-after.

With Bono, Austria said that he will have a formidable front in the middle who are seasoned, diligent and block shots. But topping him would leave the team, again, with only one prime offensive option in Reyes.

Intal could be the man, Austria said. The former Bolero ace is one of the best scorers in the past and Austria said they cannot be fooled if they tap Intal first overall.

But, picking Intal, a natural shooter and who can finish breaks with ease, would leave the 6-foot-6 Reyes all alone to again man the slot, hence, limiting Reyes' options to contribute offensively.

De Venice is also a prime candidate, but Austria said they will not take a gamble on the PB American unless all of his papers are in order and if the rookie could get a commitment from the 6-foot-7 center that he would stay in the country.

Incidentally, Austria is also looking at the free agent number.

Austria said that Jun Magsol had offered a trade for Reyes, but Philkoat declined a deal because the team wants to build its future on Reyes, the former University of the Philippines stalwart.

Philkoat will also pick 12th overall, or second in the second round behind Cone-Coke since Welly came from the top seven who will be screened in the second round.

Austria said that if available, he will select former UP point guard Martin Dizon.

Alaska, Coca-Cola and Air21 have already used the 6-foot-3 in the second coming to several trades in the last two years. Sta. Lucia, hobbled by an aging frontline, owns the third overall choice.

Olympians down Bay Cats

By Marc-Anthony Reyes

ONE COLLEGIATE LEAGUE'S loss is another's gain.

That's what Mark Sinking pursued yesterday when the Ateneo Lions outlasted downed 878 to 86-69 outright win, a 77-84 decision of San Sebastian Golfin in the Inclusive Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and University (Onsoco) basketball tournament at the Filipinas.

The 6-foot-2 guard Rulang shot a team-high 27 points and Raymund Tiongco and Ramon Mahinay chipped in 14 points each as the Olympians solidified their lead of the lead.

Ian Sebastian Carter dropped in 3-4 despite the inspired performance of teammates Glen Rabaraot and Jerome Cruz, who posted in 18 and 14 points, respectively.

Earlier, Jhay Ara, awaiting behind a ball, scott prize, crashed St. Clare, 105-99, ascend to series at 1-2.

It was the second straight win for the Hunters after successive setbacks to defending champion AMA and NU.

Shuffled by veteran Phil veteran Advincula and Jeff Cariaso, New Era put premium on defense while letting loose high scoring scorer to create havoc in offense.

Dino Abaloz collected 24 points, hauled down 12 rebounds and laid three for the Hunters. Jeff de Guzman also had 24 points and six assists.

Archie Cruz and Winbell Ledda chained for 31. Clare with 26 and 13 points, respectively.

TEAM STANDINGS	W	L
JCI	3	0
Cebu	3	1
New Era	2	1
St. Clare	1	2
JM	1	2
St. Cec	1	2
JCI	1	2
Holy Angel	1	2
PLP	0	3
CEBU	0	3

Box scores:

MEN'S GAME

MEN'S GAME: YES—Abaloz 24, 1-2 in 20 rebounds, 3 assists; Cruz 31, 1-2 in 20 rebounds, 3 assists; Ledda 31, 1-2 in 20 rebounds, 3 assists; Cruz 26

Chakvetadze ousts Venus

Betting scandal rocks ATP

LONDON—AS THE NBA GRAPPLES with a betting scandal, tennis must now confront a potential gambling cause of its own.

Officials on Friday were investigating suspicious betting patterns on a match involving top-seeded Nikolay Davydenko of Russia, who retired with an injury against a low-ranked opponent in an ATP event in Poland.

In an unprecedented move, British online gambling company Betfair voided all bets Friday placed on Thursday's second-round match at the Prokom Open in Sopot between the defending champion and No. 4-ranked Davydenko and No. 67-ranked Martin Vassallo Arguello of Argentina.

Betfair said it received about $7 million (euros— 10 times the usual amount—and most of the money was on Arguello, even after Davydenko won the first set 6-3. AP

Bonds still can't catch up

SAN DIEGO—PLAYING IN PETCO'S fat least Gerardo Izalquek, Bonds extended his homerless streak to one week and remained at No. 754, one shy of tying Hank Aaron's record.

The San Francisco slugger was hitless in three runs against the wily Greg Maddux in a classic matchup Friday night, and finished 0 for 4 overall.

Brad Ausmus' two-run poke when Scott Hairston homered for the second time, a solo shot with one out in the 10th inning that gave the San Diego Padres a 4-3 win over the Giants. AP

CARLSBAD, CALIF.—VERA ZVONAREVA was bounced out of the quarterfinals of the Acura Classic by Anna Chakvetadze on the No. 5 seed's second try (7-5), 7-6 (5), 6-2 after a Friday night rain delay.

Chakvetadze squandered the first set after leading 5-2. Chakvetadze, who double-faulted eight times in the match, double-faulted three times to give the eighth, 10th and 12th games to Williams, the last tying the set at 6. Included in that span were two set points in the 10th game that Williams saved to stay the match at 5.

Williams, the No. 18 seed, won the tiebreak after jumping out to leads of 4-0 and 5-3.

Chakvetadze fell behind 2-1 and 5-3 in the second set before bouncing back. Williams held a match point at 6-5. A hot shot hit an easy forehand volley into the net. Both players held serve to force the tiebreak, won by Chakvetadze as she took advantage of several errors by Williams.

The 20-year-old Russian handled Williams in the final set for an impressive win over the reigning Wimbledon champion.

"It was the biggest win in my career, but I am already thinking about tomorrow," Chakvetadze said. "I was fighting until the end. I think that was why I won."

Chakvetadze will face top-seeded Maria Sharapova in the semifinals after her countrywoman defeated Jelena Dokic 6-2, 6-1.

Chakvetadze, who has won the past two WTA tournaments, extended her winning streak to 12 matches.

A third Russian, ninth seed Elena Dementieva, leads the semis and will take on eleventh seeded Swiss Patty Schnyder. AP

PHELPS STRIKES AGAIN
Michael Phelps says the 100m backstroke as the US Swimming Championships with a time of 53.61 seconds, just three-hundredths of a second outside the world record of Aaron Peirsol.

Sabbatini takes 2-shot lead; Tiger four behind

AKRON, OHIO—RORY SABBATINI continued to make a different golf course look like a breeze Friday evening off three straight birdies toward the end of his round for another 3-under 67 and a two-shot lead over Zach Johnson in the Bridgestone Invitational.

What appeared to be a tune-up for the final major of the season next week at the U.S. PGA Championship is starting to look like it might be an even tougher test. Sabbatini was at 9-under 134, with only seven other players able to break par.

Five-time champion Tiger Woods was one of them after an even-par 70. He made only two birdies despite hitting 15 greens in regulation, and those were wiped out by a pair of three-putts from about 35 feet in which he left the first putt about 8 feet short of the hole.

He was at 138 along with Scott Verplank (68) and Nicholas Percy, who had his second straight 66.

Johnson and Darin Love III had the best rounds at 65. Love wound up in the group at 139 that included Lee Westwood and Chris DiMarco. AP

Ochoa on top; Wie out

ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND—LORENA Ochoa's missed putt at the 18th took the run out of another big step toward her first major. Michelle Wie's missed cut suggested she's still a long way from her first victory.

Ochoa missed a 6-footer on the final hole to give her an even-par 73 and a one-stroke lead at St. Andrews in the Women's British Open. Wie, 17, was preparing another early flight home. She shot an 80 for a 7 over score of 153 that ruined the cut by two.

"It's a disappointment. I didn't play as well as I wanted to," said Wie.

Ochoa, creeping up on her first major, went to the 18th with a two-shot lead and faced a 25-foot putt for birdie. Instead of walking off three ahead of the field, the advantage slipped to one as her first putt, hit too strongly, curled 4 feet past and then she missed that to wind up with a bogey. AP

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Thais formally extend SEA Games invite to Filipinos

By Mayong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES FORMALLY RECEIVED its invitation Wednesday night from host Thailand to take part in the 24th staging of the Southeast Asian Games to be held in three cities in Thailand from Dec. 6-15.

Represented by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, the Philippines formalized its participation by accepting the symbolic invitation from two high-ranking Thai sports officials.

Chalypath Sirisuk, vice president of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand and VP for Asia Maj. Gen. Chumrok Arunchaleeprasert presented the invitation to the RP officials as well as a gold-plated tea cup set.

"Thailand is the closest friend [of the Philippines] from among its Southeast Asian neighbors," Cojuangco has said during the offer extended by other POC officials led by Rep. Monico Puentevella, Steve Hontiveros and PSC commissioners headed by Ingrid Garcia.

This year's Games, which Thailand is hosting for the sixth time, will be held in Bangkok and in the provinces of Pattaya and Korat. The Pasis are keenly favored to retain the overall championship from the Philippines following a mixed fate marred in 2005.

Bangkok will host the competitions events including basketball, which was scrapped in 2005 because of the Filta suspension on the Philippines, football and tennis. The main secretariat will also be there.

Sirisuk also announced that Thailand will raise local fee and outgoing Asian Games champion Ismail Udomchoke, reborn Cecil Mamiit debuted in the men's singles finals in Manila two years ago, because of a knee injury.

Pattaya will host all water sports events, while Korat, which is a three-hour ride from the capital, will be the third venue.

CHAMNIAN Myrchaikaew, VP for Gen. of the Southeast Asia Games organizing committee (second from left) and Sirirut Chalypath of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, present the SEAG invitation to POC President Peping Cojuangco (second from right) and PSC chairman William Ramirez. Looking on is POC vice president Monico Puentevella.

Tigers, Archers hurdle foes

By Jazmine H. Paya

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Tigers always survive to have a surprise in store for the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

This time, it was rookie Rhaine Mateo who caught the Eagles off guard as the defending champion Tigers neared to an 87-74 victory in the UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m. — UP vs. FEU (Jrs)
4 p.m. — UP vs. Ateneo (Jrs)
6 p.m. — UST vs. Ateneo (Srs)

Mateo, a transferee from World Citi College, fired 16 markers from beyond the arc for a career-high 25 points.

"He has potential, everyone in this team has potential; they just have to show it on the court," said UST assistant Pido Jarencio.

Jerry Cruz again dominated the paint with 19 points and 21 rebounds as the Tigers ended their first-round campaign at 4-3 to join the Eagles at third.

While the Eagles closed out with back-to-back losses, rival De La Salle wrapped up its campaign on a happy note as the Green Archers held off the National University Bulldogs for an 85-81 triumph that propelled them to second place with a 5-2 slate.

Rookie Archer Emilio Mahalos provided the bulk of the scoring with 18 points, including a pivotal triple that stretched the Bulldogs' reign in the third frame minutes.

For Paterno, it was a good first round even if UAAP commissioner Ed Cordero and the technical committee recently denied the game protest they lodged against Ateneo.

The UAAP board will convene at 1 p.m. today to issue its final ruling on La Salle's claim that Ateneo violated a playing rule on the fielding of foreign players.

The scores

FEU-Tamaraw
LA SALLE (85) – Valencia 32, Ong 13, Villanueva 9, Mangahas 9, Salenga 6, Lucero 6, Bernal 5, Hernandez 4, Mahalos 4, Cruz 3, Cortez 0.
Quarters: 20-20, 44-44, 68-68, 85-81.

DLSU-Green Archers
ADMU (74) – Mateo 25, Cruz 19, Salmon 10, Cortez 8, Espino 7, Gile 5, Juan 1, Torres 1, Abreu 0, Torre 0, Austria, Manalo, Tiglao 0.
ATENEO (87) – Villamor 20, Lalata 15, Mamaril-Jones 14, Yu 11, Dario 10, Jung 8, Hayes 6, Santos 2, Balicanta 0, Arroyo 0, Ardiz 0.
Quarters: 19-16, 40-36, 62-55, 87-74.

KHALEH Hirsa of UST (center) battles Jai Reyes (left) and Christine Bacior of Ateneo for the loose ball.

Orduna tries to keep solo superkarting lead

AFTER SURLING THE SECOND LEG of the Mini-ROK Asian Karting Open Championship, Mitsi ROK Joey Orduna will try to preserve his solo lead in the Mini-ROK division of the 2007 Shell Superkarting Series this weekend at the Sheikanford Kingdom.

The 12-year-old Orduna, a Grade 6 student of Manix Montessori School, has nine-time of the pool four name and another win will firm up his bid for the year's overall Mini-ROK crown.

He has a total of 216 points, 64 points ahead of France Reyes. Reni Dumagsin is third overall with 136 points while Tristan Cuenco and Mico Calderon of the Cebu Karting Group follow with 106 and 101 points.

"I hope I can achieve the same feat I did in the ARDC Asian Karting Open," said Orduna.

In the Asian Karting Open Championship two weeks ago, Orduna posted one of the fastest times during the practice and the qualifying heats.

Racing for Tricycled Philippines the Team Racing Ready 2 Race Team, Orduna made crucial drive to wrest the lead seven times from Dumagsin in the pre-final heat.

And in the final race, Orduna put up a fight against Thailand's Chot manghost Phisitthanee and France Reyes until he grabbed the lead for good on the 10th lap.

Orduna stayed up in third overall in the ARDC Asian Karting standings with 37 points in a tie with front and rhained Pamyths. Current pursuers Reyes and Dumagsin hold 49 and 50 points.

JOEY Orduna en route to victory

UST, FEU jins dominate tilt

UST (TEAM EDGE) AND FEU (ICOLE) stamped off with top honors in the recent Brown/Smart national taekwondo championships at the Rizal Memorial coliseum.

Led by last player Marlon Arevalo and handled by last coach Orado Ninjas, the UST lone wrapped Phoo Bonaventa's Delta Team Gold Cadet two-fighter and Ateneo Domingo to FEU Bronze Gold and FEU rookie Cerwin Fernandez medalists in the senior men's advance division.

Domingo was named best coach in the senior women's advance group after FEU Gold best fighters Cyra Cobo Green Lilliet medal, Ian Gold Gin Cia's Blood Providence and Simpson's UST Tigers for one medalists.

Richelle Orendain pushed FEU triumph as she bagged the best player award.

For the whole story

Senior women's senior – Kim Fronius, pak Jaime Nicole Ramos, Jessica Ramos, Jessica Ramos, Jessica

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■ There's authentic leadership in you /B2

Sunday Buz

A tribute fit for an honorable man

Friends and the family of Rafael B. Buenaventura set up microfinance, cancer care foundations in his honor

By Dimitri L. Lucas

ASKED BY REPORTERS WHAT HE WANTED to do once his term at the helm of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) ended, Rafael B. Buenaventura would invariably say that he wanted to be involved in microfinance.

Back then, the media thought his answer sounded corny, if not a bit crazy. After all, there were already some international financial institutions that were wooing him to lend his prestige to their boards.

It looked inconceivable to many that one of the country's top bankers would devote the remaining years of his life to a sector that lay at the bottom rung of his industry.

"But for those of us who knew him, we understood that microfinance was really his passion," said Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) executive director Leandro L. Carmel.

Thus, to honor the man known to friends as "Bang," the BAP decided to set up the Rafael B. Buenaventura (RBB) Center for Microfinance.

"(This) is an initiative of the BAP and a means to continue the advocacy of the late BSP Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura for the development and propagation of sustainable microfinance," the bankers organization said in documents explaining the cre-

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At 76, Aring still runs San Pedro's longest surviving taho business

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—If some living would call her Lola "Aring" by virtue of (son of Jo), she could literally mean it. After all, tofu comes from the coagulated soybean curd, which has been her family's primary source of living all these years.

Rosario Martinez, 76, better known as "Aring" to her family and friends, has been running the Juni Taho in San Pedro, Laguna for 20 years now.

Among the four existing taho businesses in the town, hers is the longest running and so far the largest distributor of the healthy morning snack.

The soybean curd, or popularly known in the country as tahu, has been an icon of the Filipino delicacy.

The "magtatahu" (vendor) carries on his shoulders a wooden plank where two aluminum containers hang on both sides.

When he starts yelling "Tahu," everyone can enjoy a warm cup of soy curd, sweetened with arnibal (liquefied raw sugar) and added with sago (tapioca pearls).

Aring runs through her usual three-hour routine of cooking the tahu.

The soybeans are first soaked in water to swell up before these are ground in the miller. It is then boiled in a large aluminum pan and sifted afterward to be refined. Raisins, sugar is heated up and caramelized, while the sago is separately cooked in another boiler.

Nothing goes to waste in the tahu business. The dregs from the cooked soybeans are used as tahon (an ingredient for soups and pickling vegetables or meats), or as animal feeds. The excess soybean curds can be reheated and molded into tahon or tofu.

DWORK Rosario Martinez prepares the containers to be used.

Cockpit to tahu

Juni Taho started in May of 1982, after the family's cockpit business closed down. To raise her eight kids and send them to college all at the same time, Aring decided to engage in this business to earn more than being a grade school teacher.

"I really did not have any idea in that kind of business (tahu) at first," Aring shares. But it was her nephew Carlito, who had previously worked in another tahu business, that convinced her to give it a shot.

They first started with one miller for the soybeans handmade by Carlito, four buckets used for measuring the soymilk, and a couple of aluminum containers or "balde" for their vendors to carry and peddle the product.

During that time, Carlito managed the production while Aring supported the finances.

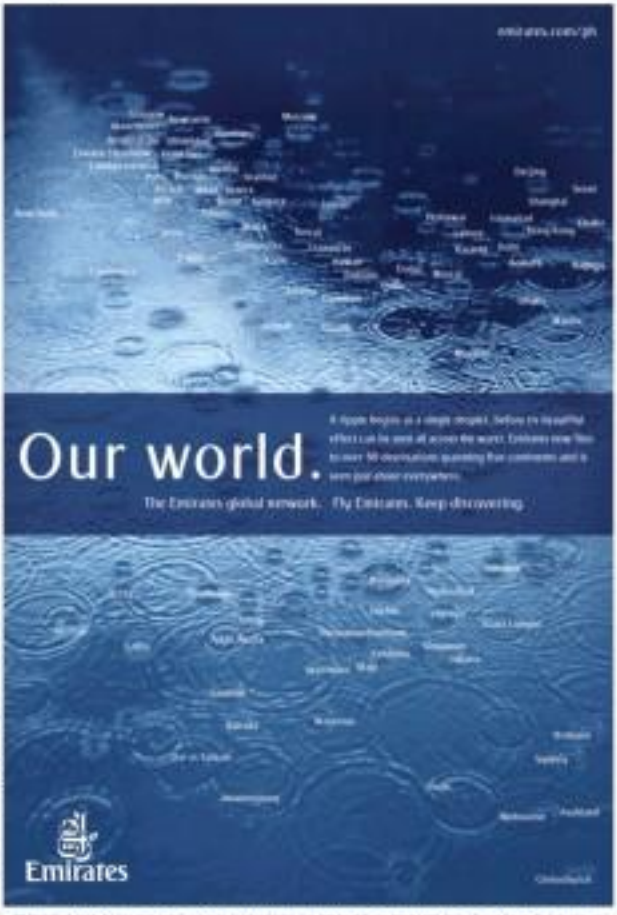
With a capital of P50,000, Juni Taho was all set to grind the soybeans.

Setbacks

Aring's husband passed away in 1983, and left her with the sole responsibility over the family.

Two years later, Carlito put up his own tahu business in an

AT TAHU |B3



Discover your authentic leadership

THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE EPS technology and long before the compass was invented, a sailor would chart a ship's path by identifying the North Star in the sky. Located directly above the North Pole, the North Star stays at a fixed point in the sky, while all other stars change position during the night. Its constancy gives sailors a point of reference from which to navigate.

Following the North Star was a matter of life and death for sailors of old. Without knowledge of the North Star, a ship could veer off course, run out of supplies, and perish at sea. In the panorama of the night sky, the North Star held a special place in the hearts of the sailors.

Finding it gave them direction, comfort, peace. You can imagine a father gazing at the stars with his son and training his child to find the all-important North Star.

This week, I'd like to review a recommended leadership book... True North: Discover Your Authentic Leadership by Bill George and Peter Sims (Jossey-Bass 2007).

In True North, Bill George and Peter Sims guide readers to a fixed point around which they can orient their leadership. The authors describe "true north" as a leader's authentic core, made up of a leader's values and passions.

Much of the book is a call to self-awareness. Each chapter has an accompanying section in the book's appendix with thought-provoking questions designed to lead readers into self-discovery. Readers should be sure to read the compelling introduction which sets out the book's thesis.

In writing True North, the authors leaned heavily on the insights of fellow business leaders. The voices of these leaders resonate throughout the book in powerfully illustrative stories. Readers will notice the attention as the leaders recount pivotal moments from their leadership journeys.

One story worthy of note is recounted by former Merck CEO, Roy Vagelos, in Chapter 9, Daring Together. Merck discovered a drug to cure river blindness, an African disease.

However, stock market projections deemed African would be unable to afford the drug, its development was nearly scrapped. Interesting, Vagelos carried the drug through to completion and gave it away for free in Africa.

Aside From earning US millions people, Vagelos' decision ended up attracting a bevy of principled talent to Merck as word spread of the company's compassion.

True North is studded with content that hits home with truthful precision. A prime example can be found in Chapter 6, where George and Sims differentiate between coalition and mission motivations for being a leader. Where leaders chase their coalition motivations (power, money, recognition) at the expense of internal satisfaction, they are in danger of destroying their value as a leader.

In True North, George and Sims judiciously blend their insights alongside wisdom from eminent business leaders to convey a potent and pleasurable book. DF subscribers will find these subject highlights and anecdotes favorably in an effort to capture the book's precious realities.

A masterpiece of collected leadership wisdom, True North earns its praise as an invaluable compass for the student of leadership.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or outreach workshops, please email us at bizgeek@mail.com or call 613-2040/2732 and ask for Jen or Ring. Teri MACNEILL (06 to 06:30 (10am)) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.

Oops, no glib talk

Speak like a CEO
Brandon Royal
McGraw-Hill, 2007

By Claire M. Veloso
Contributor

FOR A CEO, SPEAKING WELL IS non-optional.

"To speak well, or to speak well," are two things. A lost may talk, but a wise man speaks."

This quote from Josiah Quincy and dramatist Ben Johnson strikes just the right note for a book that urges CEOs not to neglect their most important public speak before audiences.

The author, Brandon Royal, is just polite to say it—but that quote delivers one compelling message: CEOs must learn to speak well in public, or they just might ruin a few of themselves are due modern day stage—which could be the television morning, the boardroom, or the corporate auditorium. Speaking well is not an option: it's a must.

Points may not be saying something new about public speaking.

Speech book for CEOs

This book, though, is invaluable to any category of a leader in the modern world—"the highest officer in day-to-day management of a corporation ... one who has the ultimate executive power within a company ... and one who is responsible to every employee, every member of the board, and every customer or client, as well as the community and sometimes the industry."

Author Royal is referring to the much admired or grossly feared, hugely compensated or grossly undervalued CEO—the Chief Executive Officer.

She asks a pointed question: "How can any CEO succeed without communicating?" To which she provides a terse answer: "It's impossible."

EXECUTIVE READ

And yet, she makes this honest—and, to us, eye-opening—assessment: "Most of CEOs speak well. Some speak poorly. Some hardly communicate."

This is actually obvious, but she gives a telling blow when she adds: "Business is about nothing but communication." No, why aren't CEOs even bothered about their underdeveloped public speaking skills?

The speaker's authentic voice. That said—coupled with a nationwide survey in the United States showing that 61.5 percent of Americans feel it is "very important" for leaders of organizations to communicate effectively—Royal moved on to consider the CEOs' voice "the most effective leadership style" and their "unique voice."

Central truths

These two central truths are discussed by Royal from the beginning of the book and goes back to it with more insights at the book's final pages.

A very useful and readable section—save throughout the "right to exist of successful CEOs and leadership—is the one that tells us the truths on the authentic voice of the CEO as speaker.

Invited T. "Be Real," begins with a Shakespearean quote which runs: "This above all: To thine own self be true." To know it, "Stand for something." And "Be Yourself" CEO to inspire the people to lunch on to a higher purpose. Another speech book says that a leader must bring his people to a "higher ground," a "better purpose" where they can make a difference in the world."

As mentioned, the book reveals a treasure trove of quotes and anecdotes about leaders who inspired people and organizations by "being optimistic," or by "focusing on the future."

To coach on public speaking, Royal borrowed by has not missed out on emphasizing the value of "telling stories" in speeches.

She draws lessons from a great tradition of speakers and preachers who tell stories, showing conflict and suspense in each story. Her favorite is Apollo's speaking in "You hold your audience in the palm of your hand," says another speech consultant.

From "secrets," the author proceeds to remind CEOs of "inhibitors"—notably, "cynicism-and-the fear of public speaking in the CEO's career," "leaving it to the speechwriters," and forgetting the audience."

Mistakes to avoid

Two interesting reminders, though, deserve some elaboration. One is "winging impromptu speeches," meaning, not preparing at all, being over confident than glib talk can do the job. From such a mistake, Royal delivers a caveat to public speaking: "Clarity is king."

President Delano Roosevelt is even more succinct: "Be sincere, be brief, be seated." (Mistakeswebcollection.com)

ARMIE Martinez helps in sifting the sayuds.

At 76, Aring still runs San Pedro's ...

From page B1

other town and left his still inexperienced aunt to manage her Tabo store.

Not easier weeks, the produce was either soggy or rotten, causing their sales to drop.

Learning

Aring remembered how she eventually learned—by trial and error—the correct amount of water and heat needed to produce a quality soy curd.

In 1986, one of her vendors was charged with murder in a small-time gambling fight.

Afraid to get into this trouble, the other vendors who lived in that same area decided leaving the town and moved to other Tabo businesses.

"From 100, we were left with only eight vendors at that time," Aring recalled, saying there were some who came back but they were only few.

An almost similar incident took place in 1994 when the son of one of the vendors got involved, this time, in a basketball glitch.

What seemed to be a silly argument led to the fatal death of the vendor and resulted in a number of Jam Tabo's workers moving out again.

As with any kind of business, Aring expects the inevitability of these drawbacks.

"The usual problems that we have are with the vendors," Aring shares.

She encounters some wording the "battle" or dealing with her dishonestly, but as if a motherly advice, she patiently and constantly reminds her workers to help each other out for they all equally benefit in the business.

Early riser

Aring manages to get up every day at 2 a.m. in order not supervise the tabo production herself.

"We always make sure that our tabo is cooked well," she says.

She also shares making extra care not to put the water used for cooking the soybeans as an added ingredient in the good curd.

Payoff

The years of hard work truly paid off when Aring started up other businesses from Jam Tabo.

She has put up fish cages, a piggery (swine farm), and just in time of last year, a promised bantering station.

Most importantly, she has raised all her eight kids with good education and they are now professionals in their own right.

Currently, Jam Tabo has 20 regular vendors and some others working as "extras" (casual workers).

Her tabo reaches the whole of San Isidro, and even to as far as Cantilan, Lanuza or Las Nieves City.

When asked if she has any plans of leaving from the business, "As long as I can, I will not stop working," Aring says. Text and photos by Mariner Cinco, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A tribute fit ...

From page B1

sion of the unit. "The proposed organization is thought of as a way to best honor him and preserve his legacy."

No loan sharks

Microfinance is a lending scheme where underprivileged borrowers could obtain collateral-free loans to fund their entrepreneurial activities. It was pioneered after the highly successful Grameen Bank founded in Bangladesh to give the poor people at the lower strata of society a cheaper alternative to loan sharks, more commonly known as "five-six" lenders.

During his days at the central bank, Buenaventura agonized over the fact that many Filipinos who patronized the services of loan sharks would have to pay usurious interest rates of over 1,000 percent per annum.

Under the microfinance program, actual interest rates stand at only about 36 percent for a loan with a three-month term.

Population: top microfinance banks as P.Y.O.2008, although the bulk of borrowers rarely exceed the P10,000 or P20,000 mark.

One mainly to the microfinance system's vast network of local authorities, the average repayment rate stands at an amazing 95 percent—a level unequaled even by the most credit-worthy companies.

Impatient

According to Coronel, Buenaventura was always impatient about getting the microfinance system to work, especially when he saw the door take up for the scheme despite the groundwork laid by the central bank.

While there were many bankers and government institutions which are already providing cheap loans, the BAP executive director said the entire scheme lacks a "conductor" who would make all the parts move in unison—a role Buenaventura often played.

"He was convinced that microfinance exists other than entrepreneurs and charities," he said. "It will be a catalyst. It will be a deal maker. It will serve as the investment banker of the microfinance world."

"We will leverage the name [of Buenaventura], and with the help of the BAP we will get things to move a little faster," Coronel added.

Different initiatives

There are different initiatives currently being done or looked at by various groups or institutions in support of microfinance. Without mentioning any names in leveraging efforts, the BAP said that the organization will complement the existing initiatives, undertaken activities into "a cohesive endeavor for greater impact," and "identify the gaps that need to be filled and muster the necessary resources."

The BAP Council for Microfinance can find its niche in a smaller or an enabler to the microfinance community as a whole," according to the BAP documents. "Grameen Bank ventures himself envisioned a foundation that will support efforts to address the more critical constraint to microfinance propagation rather than the availability of lendable funds."

The center for microfinance was unveiled during simple ceremonies in Makati City by BAP president Ramon Sy last Friday Aug. 3, 2007.

A personal dimension

Beyond work, however, family friends and colleagues also want Buenaventura's legacy in a personal way.

According to his closest friends, the former central bank governor—who succumbed to cancer in November 2006—had often wondered about how the low privileged victims of the deadly disease would be able to afford expensive cancer care.

Buenaventura was fortunate enough to have better able to afford the best medical care in Johns Hopkins Medical Center and at the Stanford University Hospital in the US, but—in true Bicolano fashion—was always conscious of the costs.

"It struck him how expensive the whole thing was," said Antonino L. Almadgan, a classmate from grade school, who also pursued a banking career and served with Buenaventura on the Monetary Board. "He always asked, 'Buano na lang kaya ang mga nahihirap na may cancer? Walang kakaibahan.'"

This prompted his family and friends to set up the Rafael Buenaventura Foundation, whose main purpose is to raise funds to help in the treatment of indigent cancer patients.

The foundation is being chaired by former Ambassador Alberto del Rosario, with Almadgan as president, and several renowned doctors, medical practitioners and bankers serving on its board.

Big boost

The group received a big boost last month when BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. turned over a P5-million donation during the central bank's anniversary celebration.

Almadgan said the foundation will tie up with the cancer treatment unit of the Philippine General Hospital and formulate a system for the early detection and treatment of cancer among indigent patients.

The concern for the less privileged is something we want to remember him by," Almadgan said.

Incidentally, today, Aug. 5, 2007, marks his 69th birthday... a little over eight months after he passed away.

The Center for Microfinance and the Rafael Buenaventura Foundation are living testaments to a man who not only attained personal success, but also shared it with others.

Making money out of kids' play

ACTIVEFUN owner Rina Bucher and wife Gina believe in an exciting play facility for kids.

WHEN TONY AND GINA Bucher decided to go into business in the Philippines, they looked at a number of options. They wanted something different, and were prepared to work at it to make it successful.

"We have young kids. We face the same challenges as every mom and dad in the Philippines in keeping our kids healthy and entertained," Tony said.

This is the reason why the couple set up ActiveFun, a play center for kids designed to help enhance their physical, social and emotional well-being.

Play is work

"We know that exercise for kids and unstructured play are two areas where today's hard-pressed parents have a tough time and that it's so easy to just leave the kids glued in front of the TV or game console when in actuality, a simple visit to Activefun twice a week would give them a big boost," he added.

Rina Agoo, an occupational therapist, says play is work for kids.

"It is a time when they develop their physical functions. Brain development not only involves reading and writing, mastering physical functions is also a prerequisite to the organ's later function development of children," Agoo said.

The thinkers felt that while some malls have amusement and play centers for kids, their usual objective is just to have a drop-off center for children where they can play, to allow the parents to go shopping.

Unique concept

Tony, who is CEO of ActiveFun, said their concept of the play center is unique.

"My wife Gina and I wanted an exciting play facility, but we also wanted a place that is comfortable for adults to watch and wait on their kids. We want ActiveFun not just to be a fun place but also a social place...where moms can meet and chat, or dads can meet and enjoy a basketball game," he says.

"The simple fact today is that many children do not have the time or opportunity to get sufficient exercise to develop their motor and coordination skills.

But Tony said at ActiveFun, every muscle of a child's body would be stretched and exercised.

Use of imagination

"Your child will use his imagination as he negotiates his way through the multi-level maze of suspension bridges and tunnels, walks the plank, swings from mobiles, drops down the spiral slide, or whizzes down the 12-meter slide from the height of 7 meters—but all the while under the expert supervision of our well-trained staff," he explained.

With emphasis on unstructured play which is unsupervised, free and unhindered, the Buchers believe a child could make his own decisions and test his imagination.

Everything at ActiveFun is constructed according to European (DIN safety) standards, with the indoors cushioned and the floors covered in foam tiles.

The center uses special wipe clean surfaces, which can be easily cleaned—and the center is cleaned everyday and deep-cleaned once a week. Tony said every one of the 30,000 balls in the ball pits are removed, wiped with disinfectant and replaced.

One-year old

ActiveFun Play and Party Center at the Hidden Treasure Mall in Dasmariñas Alternagad Avenue in Pasay City recently turned one year. It is the first of its kind here in the Philippines.

The owners claim that ActiveFun, at 450 square meters, is the biggest indoor play area in the country today.

The play center is divided in to two areas, a soft play area for 2 to 5 years old and the climbing frame and wall for 5 to 12 years old.

Hands-on

"Gina and I are hands-on owners, we have excellent managers and staff who keep everything going. It is very much a team effort. We ask everybody to smile, interact, learn the names of our customers, and to do whatever it takes in terms of good quality and service," Tony said.

Academy for 3D animation good for Pinoy artists

THE OPENING OF THE 3RD MALL OF ASIA this year marked the entry of three-dimensional (3D) films into the mainstream entertainment genre.

Although 3D entertainment is more expensive than its 2D counterpart, most Filipinos are said to be demanding for more 3D films, due to its engaging viewing experience.

"3D is not a fad," said First Academy of Computer Arts marketing communications consultant Lito Pagaran. "Its superior visual and auditory impact is incomparable. The sense of reality and detail is unique."

With 3D cinemas becoming more popular in many parts of the world, news and movie filmmakers—including animation studios—are churning out 3D films to meet the demand of millions of viewers.

But cartoons are, or animations, a no longer the exclusive turf of the Americans. The Chinese and Koreans—following the lead of the Japanese—are also dabbling in animation, thus opening a wider door for talented Filipino artists who want to make a career out of digital arts.

With an alternative career now available, knowledge must be taught and skills developed to be marketable and competitive.

First Academy was specifically established to provide extensive training in 3D animation, as well as digital arts and Web design.

First Academy offers a free interactive workshop for interested applicants. For more information, call 668-2734 to 36, or log on to www.firstacademy.net or visit them at the 2nd floor of Saville building, 9728 Dona de Roxas corner Ayala, Ed Pryce Avenue, Makati City.

EXPANSION OPPORTUNITY

PORTA VAGA MALL

is looking for franchises and anchor stores for its new mall in Baguio City!

Located right at the heart of Session Road – an adjacent part of the Baguio Cathedral.

For interested franchisees/stores who wish to expand their stores.

CONTACT

Antonette W. Arreglo
Marketing Department
Porta Vaga Mall
Session Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. (63)74)444-2999
Telefax (63)74)304-6949
09178291981 or 09173071676
e-mail: portavagal@yahoo.com.ph

SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE BREWING AT BONIFACIO HIGH STREET

People with discerning taste in coffee can now enjoy a cup or two of their favorite brew at Seattle's Best Coffee's newest store located at the metropolis' latest happening place, Bonifacio High Street. Situated at Quadrant 3, the 33-seater outlet, has tabled as the perfect place to sit back and enjoy coffee concoctions that are always smooth and bold and never bitter, formally opened to the public on July 6. From (from left) Christopher R. Park, Seattle's Best Coffee's general manager/Karen M. Castro, Seattle's Best Coffee's group marketing director; owner Adel Tamano, Seattle's Best coffee lover and special guest; and Frederick T. Sy, Seattle's Best Coffee's president/Philippines' executive vice president.

Hurry! Few Seats Left

Special MCLE* at Manila Polo Club

AUGUST 17 - 31, 2007

Attn: Lawyers

AEGIS EXECUTIVE CENTER, INC.

JAPAN AIR LINES DONATION

Haruhiko Terada (left), deputy regional sales manager of Japan Air Lines, hands over their donation to Cynthia Manzanares, Child Life Projects officer, during simple rites at the National Children's Hospital in Quezon City. Also in photo are JAL's Ms. Lynn Simmonds, Gina Dayao, and cancer patients at the hospital. The donation was part of the "Fun Run for a Cause" project of the Japan Airlines employees and travel industry friends for the benefit of the Ayala Foundation.

AEGIS EXECUTIVE CENTER, INC. MCLE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Business Law Week-end at Manila Polo - Aug. 18 and 25 (Sat.)

Sunday BIZ

LINEAGE II features greatly improved third-person 3D graphics

Gaming seen to provide business opportunities

PSBank
US$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

	$1,000 to $9,999	$10,000 to $49,999	$50,000 to $99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking. Open a time deposit now in any of 182 branches nationwide.

ASIAN MEDIA DEVELOPMENT GROUP (AsianMedia), a leading distributor of PC games in the Philippines, has now set its sights on the highly lucrative online gaming industry.

Korean distributor

Now allied with a Korean gaming giant to distribute Lineage II in Southeast Asia, AsianMedia is poised to grab a large slice of the Triple-A MMORPG (Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game) market with the help of Internet cafe businesses eager to tap into the latest online gaming craze.

"The Philippine market for Triple-A online games is far from saturated, and we're confident that Filipino gamers ... will quickly embrace Lineage II," says Ronald Allan Aquino, AsianMedia chief operating officer.

More income

"Internet cafés and shops stand to do a lot of business with the arrival of Lineage II on our Philippine servers."

Lineage II's combination of fantasy combat and unique social/political/economic power struggles has drawn millions of loyal fans worldwide.

"Although you can currently play Lineage II from the comfort of your own home, playing Lineage II in an Internet café setting provides a different experience," says Aquino.

Lineage II features greatly improved, third-person 3D graphics, thanks to the Unreal Engine developed by Epic Games.

"It is, without a doubt, the most fantastically stunning and immersive Triple-A fantasy MMORPG in the market," adds Aquino.

Internet café owners and operators can take advantage of the wave of gamers eagerly looking forward to playing Lineage II by registering their cafés with AsianMedia's new Internet café online support facility.

Online support

Called iCafe Lounge, the online facility gives Internet café operators a leg up on their competitors.

"Registering in iCafe Lounge will also allow café owners and operators to receive exclusive invitations to Lineage II special events, the latest Lineage II news updates, as well as online promotions of their respective iCafé businesses."

Sun Cellular opens two more shops

SUN CELLULAR CONTINUES TO GROW and reach more parts of the country with the recent opening of two more shops.

One of these is located at the Ayala Center Cebu right in the heart of bustling Metro Cebu.

The shop, the third to be established in the area, is expected to bolster the services accorded to Sun Cellular's clients in Cebu and nearby provinces.

The second is located at the Trinoma Mall in Quezon City, the third shop to be opened in that part of Metro Manila.

This gives Sun patrons more choices in avail of postpaid or prepaid subscription, bills payment, and inquiries to various Sun products and services.

In a statement, Sun Cellular said the new shops show the service provider's commitment to provide quality service with its growing coverage nationwide.

It also seeks to reiterate its promise to reach more Filipinos with its expansion in different key areas.

The Trion Towers : Robinsons Land's biggest project at BGC

Robinsons Land Corp., a Philippine real estate industry leader, formally launches The Trion Towers, its largest condominium development project at the Bonifacio Global City (BGC).

The Trion Towers is the first three-tower residential complex in BGC and is highlighted before the property market on the powerful theme of three life-nurturing essentials: Earth, Water and Sky. It is likewise anchored on a tri-axial building design that provides maximum privacy and ultimate for home dwellers. All three buildings will tower to 49 storeys each.

Each represents the wellness essentials related to land like landscaped gardens, jogging paths, bicycle tracks, play and exploring areas for children. Water encompasses aqua-based interactions like swimming, boating moments, gazing at ponds and water features. Sky points to the vast, refreshing views from the homes and Trion's telescope-equipped Stargazer Garden, and to exquisite night lighting for the towers.

The Trion Towers strategically sits on a 9,869-square meter three-cornered lot at the BGC off the McKinley Parkway.

"Robinsons Land is once again delighted to present another condominium development masterpiece that fully realizes urban requirements for homes to enhance living in the practical and aesthetic sense," states Ms. Mybelle Cuilloc, RLC vice president for business development.

"Through The Trion Towers, Robinsons Land translates its vision for 'green, livability' - which, for us, is the state of harmonizing home features with our clients' desire for healthful and productive setups for life," adds Ms. Cuilloc.

Tri-axial design for enhanced privacy

Through a well-conceived tri-axial design, The Trion Towers radiate from the center and projects outward to make these buildings offer more privacy and more open sides for windows and expansive views.

Hallways are well provided with natural lighting and ventilation from three ends. The tri-axial design allows the flexibility to have more units with balconies. The alternating balconies of the towers maximize the design and guarantee views for the residents.

In collaboration with ADSA Design Partners, Robinsons Land announces the stability and stronger stance offered by the tri-axial design on land for healthful condominium dwelling.

Trion centerpoint

At the center of the three towers is an exciting grand garden. The feature provides a serene backdrop for dweller's evening home for rejuvenation in their Trion units. This garden is a refreshing sight most especially for owners of units with walk-in balcony facing this centerpoint.

From this focal amenity also radiate the various retail establishments that will be set up in the building to provide unrivaled convenience and lifestyle accents for its residents. Cafes, tea houses, health spots, specialty shops, magazine and bookstore will be on the ground floor of the buildings.

Other amenities include a gym, entertainment, function rooms, aerobics room, spa, game room, karaoke room, dry and wet library lounge.

Green Haven at the Bonifacio Global City

Living at The Trion Towers is being in proximity of the world-class destinations of business, commercial and leisure locators at the BGC, the most modern master-planned urban space in Metro Manila.

The Trion Towers is BGC's fourth property development in this city synonymity where forward-looking people converge. Bounded on one side by the McKinley Parkway, a major BGC road, The Trion Towers has unparalleled access to the best of BGC offerings, the airport and the Makati central business district.

Where BGC succeeds in providing the most green space for urban dwellers, families, and corporate people, The Trion Towers stands out as most complementary on 'greenlocability' and the triumph of three ... with its deliberate attention on the harvests of Earth, Water and Sky.

The Trion Towers offers one, two and three bedroom units.

For more information log on to www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph . You may also send e-mail to properties@robinsonsland.com or call telephone numbers 816-3888 or 892-XIA-0888.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Cheche Bernal-Fumoso

IN THIS ISSUE
A New Yorker wedding /E3

The architecture board is cracking down on high-profile but unlicensed 'architects'

ARMANDO AS

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Architectonic debate

By Alec V. Vergara

WHAT'S IN A TITLE? Who has the right to call himself an architect or to offer his services as one for a fee?

According to the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA), a person can only exercise the title "architect" and use it in the parenthesis of his or her livelihood if he or she has passed the state-sanctioned board exam for architects.

Under chairman Armando Ali, PRBoA came called buyers' attention for inadvertently identifying Ed Calma and Antonio K. Mendoza as architects in two separate stories.

Ed Calma, a 2005 TOYM awardee, is listed as the Design Principal of his father's architectural firm Leo Calma Design & Associates. His CV states that he earned his undergraduate degree in Architecture at the Pratt Institute and his graduate

ARCHITECTURE/E2

ED Calma

ANTONIO K. Mendoza

Red Ribbon
Must-Have Cake for August

Mango Crunch

Premium white chiffon cake
covered in luscious mango butter cream.
Crowned with crunch bits and juicy mango chunks.
Enjoy our Must-Have Cake for August.
It's absolutely scrumptious!

It's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon

PINAKAMURANG
24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED
P25 ONLY
24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED
Text All You Want. Call All You Want.
Available On
Xpress Load

KHOCK'S high-rise flat in Rockwell designed by Cabisa

WYN WYN Ong's newly refurbished home designed by Cabisa in Makati

BELLAVISTA, Rossi's seaside villa in Puerto Princesa designed by Cabisa

Architectonic debate

From page B1

degree in Advanced Architectural Design at Columbia University in New York.

Although most people, including a number of lifestyle journalists familiar with their works, assume that Cabisa and Mendoza are licensed and registered architects in the Philippines, a term not they are not.

As such, says Alh, they have no right to be called architects. Nor can they pass themselves off as architects under such a benign job description as "designer."

"It's called solicitation—once you project yourself as an architect or offer yourself as capable of performing the work of an architect," Alh explains. "Such a practice is prohibited under the law."

Apart from giving media pears massive reason to pause and verify their sources' claims, the issue is bigger than it seems since it also concerns would-be Filipino architects graduating abroad, as well as foreign architects hired by prominent local and multinational companies to do a number of projects here either as consultants or "architects-of-record."

Some days the board deal with such individuals and situations without knowing it, as when Cabisa and Mendoza, who, apart from having the advantage of working for one of the country's best architectural firms, also studied architecture abroad?

What does it take to be able to legally practice architecture in the Philippines? What's necessary is that you graduate abroad as well as an appropriate body of work suffice, or make up for a person's inability to take the board exam here?

For that matter, what's the scope of a licensed and registered architect's authority? What can he or she do? Is a stamp for signs and given his seal of approval on projects conceptualized or rendered by an unlicensed and unregistered individual?

Even if they hire an architect to go over and approve their plans, are homeowners guilty of malpractice and solicitation when they supplement home-improvement projects based on their own designs?

If Alh is to be believed, PRBoA isn't any stricter or less reasonable than its counterparts tasked to oversee other professions. Nor is he, for example, on certain individuals because of pressure from members of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), a private organization composed of practicing architects.

"We're not mandated to protect and promote the livelihood of architects," says Alh, who, like Marietta Segarra and longtime Boss Chavez, two of his colleagues on the board, is a practicing architect. "That's the job of the private sector. We're basically here to see and ensure that the law is followed.

Proper practice

PRBoA is one of 44 boards under the Professional Regulatory Commission. On top of its administrative functions such as giving exams and issuing licenses, the board is tasked to regulate and oversee the proper practice of architecture among its licensed and registered members nationwide.

Cabisa, allegedly upon his lawyer's instructions, declined to comment on what he described as a "poorly conceived" law. He said, via a series of text messages, that he didn't want to give certain UAP members an opportunity to get "elected" at his expense.

"I don't want to give them a media platform to rant about their malicious interpretation of the law," Cabisa wrote. "I would rather direct my energies to create."

In a phone call he made several months ago to this reporter, Cabisa attributed the board's supposed zeal to stop creative individuals like himself from earning a living to sheer "trade mentality" among certain UAP members.

Where projects are hard to come by and when even civil engineers dabble in architecture (again one of many illegal acts PRBoA is currently addressing), can you blame legitimate architects from complaining?

But it's also easy to suspect jealousy because Cabisa does get the choicest projects, including—of late—the houses Josephine del Gallego Rivet in Backwell and in Punta Fuego and Wyn Wyn Ong in Makati. He also designed the recently inaugurated De La Salle-College of St. Benilde School of Design and Arts in Manila. These happen to be high-profile works that have generated tremendous media exposure.

Cabisa's clients, with the exception of Rossi, declined to give any official statement on the matter.

"I'd reported and endeavored my vision and improved on it," Khock said via e-mail. "He's a fine architect for a client with my strengths and weaknesses."

Having lived in another country for so long, Khock said she was unaware that there was a law requiring architects to be licensed and registered. "In fact credit, upon learning of it, Khock was quick to acknowledge that 'no one is above the law.'"

"We were practicing within the guidelines of the law," she insisted. "If he wants to officially be the architect-of-record and sign all the documents, then he will have to take the exams and pass with flying colors."

Again via text message, Cabisa pointed to foreign architects designing big projects here with local and established designers signing for them. "So, I'm no different from them since my deal is the site planning and I work under him and the company he [has] built for almost 45 years," he wrote.

On the other hand, despite being regularly described by society columnist and good friend Shiamie Arcache as a "super architect," Mendoza denied, also via a text message, having ever pronounced himself (or self-architect).

Mendoza's clients include such A-listers as Sen. Loren Legarda, Manny V. Pangilinan, Tessa Maria Francisco, Fred Uytengsu and Amy Concepcion.

Legarda's edit to say: "I hired ARIES architects with Mike Sotiquez as architect and Anton (Mendoza) as interior designer. Anton is a gifted artist and a very professional worker. We have been high-school friends."

The law

Alh denies having any particular bias against media-savvy individuals like Cabisa and Mendoza. "I've never even met Cabisa," he says. "What we're trying to ensure is that people uphold the law."

The law in question is Republic Act 9266 or the Architecture Act of 2004, which Alh and colleagues helped draft.

RA 9266, which passed through two Congresses, took effect three years ago. After it was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. It has been described by its authors as a "more expansive and comprehensive" set compared to RA 545, the law it replaced.

By contrast, the act stipulates that only individuals who passed the architecture board exam given by the PRC, and have secured the necessary licenses and registrations, have the right to call themselves architects and engage in the practice of the profession.

The law doesn't recognize or is silent on the status of individuals who studied and took similar licensure exams abroad, Alh says. Nor does it endorse a designer's "works, no matter how outstanding, as a way of compensating for him not to take the board exam.

Alh adds that it's unlawful for non-architects to practice as architects under such titles as "designer" or "space planner."

For a practicing architect, who requested not to be identified, Ouanglit deBeyerdin: "I don't know of a law that prohibits people from being described as designers especially if they are merely mentioned in publications."

Cabisa may have a number of unpublished—even among his peers, but not a few of them want to see him face the music. After all, it was the UAP that brought the matter of Rossi and Mendoza's alleged misrepresentation to the board's attention.

The list, says Alh, also involves 20 or so other prominent designers "who are regularly featured in newspapers," including Jaime Pagsanjan, Camilo Vasquez and Isaac Palmiano, to-be-corporate designers Budji Layug.

Of course, one can claim to be the "architect" of an ingenious plan, system or device without breaking the law, but the problem begins once one does the actual work of a licensed and registered architect.

Private individuals who design their own homes and have their plans reviewed and signed later by an architect have nothing to fear (apart from the conscience of their client), says Alh. It, but once those individuals start designing for others for a fee, then they better watch out since they're already in clear violation of the law.

According to Alh, those who did not take the board exams like Cabisa and Mendoza are technically beyond the board's jurisdiction. But the board can apply the squeeze on architects who have signed and affixed their seals on their behalf.

Aiding and abetting

"These architects are guilty of violating the law by aiding and abetting a non-practitioner to do work that they stand to lose their license," Alh warns.

For three years, unlicensed and unregistered "architects" are also engaging in criminal acts, says Alh. The board's hands may be tied in acting directly against them, but it can and has done everything in its power to prosecute the Department of Justice.

"The complainants need not be an architect," says Alh. "He or she can be anybody if the evidence against the (illegal practitioner) is strong, we can take the case to the DOJ."

It is also not a mere question of whether or not a building is structurally sound. Since it takes a team, including an army of civil and structural engineers, to build one, skyscrapers designed by an illegal practitioner have a fairly good chance of sounding the test of time.

"The building may appear like it was designed by a professional since professionals actually assumed the liability and responsibility for him," says Alh. "But we go back to the time of the project, the real practitioner is pretending himself as the author of a certain work. Based on the law, he may not openly claim that it's his work."

What about foreign architects—including former Filipino citizens—working either as consultants or principals behind certain projects here?

Foreigners will have to secure permits from the PRC, the Department of Labor and the Department of Foreign Affairs to practice in the Philippines for a limited period of time only, but before they're given the permit, there has to be some form of "reciprocity" between the Philippines and the countries they come from.

"Filipino architects should be reached the same treatment if they go to (their countries) to practice over there," said Alh. "In our accreditation system is now in place among most countries that comprise the Asean and Apec."

Filipinos who passed the board have before becoming citizens of other countries can apply to practice in the Philippines upon their return after securing a special permit. Their licenses and registrations, says Alh, are still recognized despite the change in their citizenships.

Meanwhile, Filipinos may choose to study architecture abroad but if they

DE LA Salle-St. Benilde College building in Manila designed by Cabisa

A matter of confusion?

Sources at the Philippine Institute of Interior Design (PIID) say Mendoza is neither licensed nor registered as an interior de

WHEN INQUIRER LIFESTYLE first sought Antonio G. Mendoza's reaction to the issue brought to our attention by the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA), he replied with a short text message that said: "I don't like doing 'commenting on' those things."

He further stressed that he has always called himself an "interior designer." Period. For some reason, Mendoza had a change of heart a few weeks later, and asked his legal counsel, lawyer Patrick Gruss, to call us to further clear some light on the issue.

Gruss said that Mendoza is indeed a practicing interior designer and the sole proprietor of an interior design firm that carries his name, including his middle initial. (Mendoza is not to be confused with namesake Daniel Anton G. Mendoza, who's also in the interior design trade).

The confusion, Gruss surmised, must have stemmed from the fact that a local architectural firm has the same initials as Mendoza's. The said firm is owned and managed by architects Antonio Lopez, Rian Severino and Mark Sotiquez, who collectively call themselves and their outfit ARM.

"Anton has nothing to do with the architectural firm," said Gruss. "It's a separate company."

Mendoza, as the project's interior designer, occasionally works in tandem with the group of architects. One such project is the house of Sen. Loren Legarda, which Sotiquez and Mendoza worked on in their respective capacities.

"Their collaborations must have resulted in some form of confusion," said Gruss. "Some people must have gotten the mistaken impression that it's Anton who also owns the architectural firm."

But it seems Mendoza's troubles are far from over. According to our source at the Philippine Institute of Interior Design (PIID), Mendoza is neither a licensed nor registered interior designer as well.

PIID, like the United Architects of the Philippines, is a private organization composed of licensed and registered interior designers. Even in a supposedly creative field such as interior design, its practitioners are now required by law to take and pass the board exams.

By virtue of their experience, people like Mendoza are allowed under Republic Act 8534 or the interior design law to avail themselves of exemptions from taking the board.

The same law, which was approved in 1998, paved the way for the creation of a board of interior designers also under the supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission.

It was also in 1998 when the newly created board first gave board exams to those applying as interior designers. Before that, interior design graduates had begun taking board exams in 1992 under the direct supervision of the board of architecture.

Apart from practicing interior design—who graduated way before RA 8534 was signed into law, architects who [illegible] interior designers will have to apply for an exemption.

Further, [illegible] will have always [illegible] exam under the supervision of the PRC's Board.

According to our source, those who [illegible] proficient in [illegible] and [illegible] of applicants.

Two architects offer contrasting opinions on whether foreigners should be allowed to practice architecture in the country

JAN Paladio

JOSE Mari Cabizares

'The law is the law'

SHOULD THEY OR shouldn't they?

While it comes to whether the practice of architecture in the Philippines should be strengthened to allow the free entry of foreigners and Filipinos who studied abroad, two of the country's leading architects have fostered opposite opinions on the issue based on their individual experiences and what they believe is workable.

While Cebu-based architect José Mari Cabizares is for the strict observation of Republic Act 9266, Manila-based architect Jan Paladio is for opening up the practice to qualified outsiders.

Short of saying that the issue is a non-issue, Jan Paladio wanted a more "programmatic" rather than dogmatic" approach to the problem.

"I may be taking a contrasting view," said the architect, who's also licensed to practice in the United Kingdom and has done a number of projects in 30 countries, "but if the architecture law restricting the practice to licensed and registered Filipino architects isn't being enforced, we might as well agree to say to foreigners as loud (be) coming here."

He bemoaned the fact that his firm, Paladio Associates, gets more credit and recognition abroad than in the Philippines, where he and his partners have had to handle the board exams and pay taxes and registration fees annually.

'PR mileage'

In contrast, he said, foreign architects don't pay the right amount of taxes (if at all) and registration fee in the Philippines. They're usually paid elsewhere, he said, but get tremendous "PR mileage" because of the prevailing colonial mentality among some developers.

"The patrons of Filipino architects like Genie (sic), Eugenio (Lopez) and even Imelda (Marcos) are gone," he lamented. "Because of colonial mentality, (as a few local developers) (even) Filipino architects go (around) (their) professionals to their own country."

Discouraging the entry of qualified outsiders, he reasoned, only makes them services more (costly). Allowing them to practice more freely in the country would demystify their reputations (that they're) likely to become as common as the underrated Filipino architects (are) (now).

"Demand for them is bound to reach a (saturation) point," said Paladio. "Sooner or later, people would realize (that they're) not so good after all and (that our best Filipino architects) could also do the job at a fraction of what these overrated (foreign) charge."

Coveted spot

Paladio is speaking from experience. Knowing he's the "first" Filipino architect to do a project in Dubai way back in 1977, working and competing with a (multinational team) of architects and engineers is no longer new to him.

Thanks to its regular forays overseas, Paladio Associates has won a number of awards and recognition through the years. Last year, World Architecture Leaders included the firm in "World's Top 100," landing in 99th place. The firm made Paladio Associates the only architectural firm in Southeast Asia to earn a coveted spot in the prestigious global ranking, he said.

"We should consider all citizens of the world as our architectural clients," said Paladio, "We should also welcome and open up our shores to architects from the rest of the world. Architecture is both an art and a science that has economic, social and environmental implications. It's a profession that is universal."

Empty bag

To Cabizares, however, anything "fake" is never good. One way or the other, the client ends up holding an empty bag because of unbeatable and overpriced services usually rendered by an unlicensed and unregistered practitioner.

"Most if not all of these individuals aren't even licensed architects abroad," said Cabizares, whose past projects include the Mactan Cebu International Airport, Taoist Beach Resort, Nobel Beach Club, Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish, Regency Gene Consultants, G.V. Tower Hotel and Hotel Le Carmen.

"They may be graduates from schools abroad, but it doesn't mean they're automatically licensed to practice there in the United States, for instance, each state has its own set of board exams. Aside from designing buildings that are often energy hungry and expensive to build and maintain, these people tend to overlook the unique requirements of their clients living in the tropics."

And should anything untoward happen as the building, these individuals have virtually no legal responsibilities since they're (possible and/or clueless to) (Spanish architects did the signing and stamp for them. Put absolutely any degree claims have very little or no legal recourse to go after those using and illegal practitioners.

"Some of these illegal practitioners even use the PRC numbers of deceased architects!" said Cabizares. "That's why I would suggest that clients ask for their PRC and IAP numbers and see to it that the architects they're dealing with are the ones who sign and seal the plans."

Cabizares went on to warn the public that those of these persons, because of their support education abroad, charge higher fees compared to locally licensed and registered architects. (Other) parties an opposite concept.

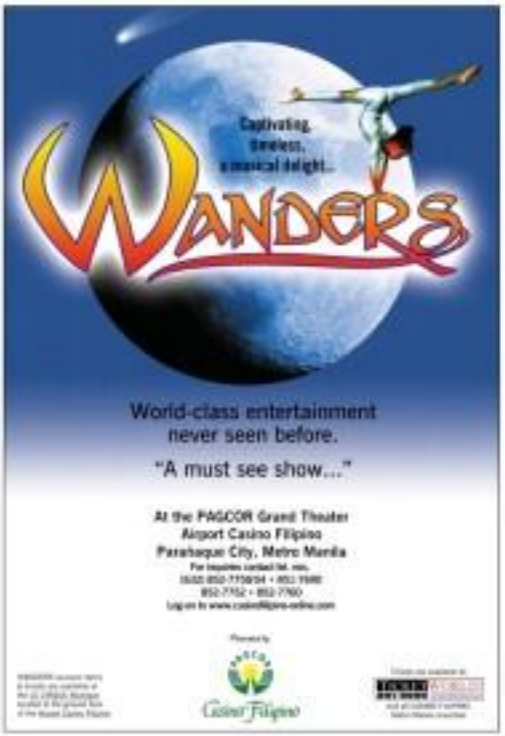
"Some procedures do away with professional fees just to get their hands on the project (how) to the lucrative construction work," he said. "In a similar case, would you entrust your health to a doctor offering free consultations, but also owns a funeral parlor and a memorial park?"

Bogus credentials

Since RA 9266 is now in place, it's now up to everybody...including clients and the media—to make it work, Jan Paladio (he said, should be equally vigilant about architects that foreign, for they really dealing with (questionable or bogus) credentials. (Me) with (client-based) (some expensive) (architects)?

"People victimized by these individuals should also come out and not be (unwilling) to simply (let their) (wounds) in private," said Cabizares.

"Globalization has nothing to do with the issue," he added. "The law is the law. Any (violation) and I went through a given deal or (project committee) and (put) the board exams. Why should others be exempted from the law? If they think they're really that good, then they should go through the same process and pass the board as well." Alec F. Vergara



LUXURIOUS bathroom at Midland's Balgair Hotel using Hansgrohe's Axor-Citterio line

HANSGROHE Axor-Starck sinks at the Porsche Center in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen

MODERN sink concept by Antonio Citterio

MINIMALIST bathroom concept by Philippe Starck

Luxe bathrooms

ASIA'S HANKERING for high-end brand name that opens up broad vistas of design for a large variety of individual bathroom solutions. It has a large number of independent and extensive collections that were developed with internationally renowned architects and designers such as Philippe Starck, Antonio Citterio, Jean Marie Massaud and Phoenix Design.

The Axor Starck collection by Hansgrohe exhibits the type of elemental elegance that personifies his work and has earned him such honors as the Oscar de l'eminence and the distinguished IF Design awards. Starck's simple yet striking designs emphasize streamlined functionality in response to the menace of everyday life.

Antonio Citterio, meanwhile, has helped reshape and redefine various fields, from architecture and industrial design to Fiat stylings and graphics. His concepts combine harmonious practicality with precise, sensuous lines.

Jean Citterio by Hansgrohe epitomizes the designer's unique passion for fluorescing refined planes and angles in achieve-understood elegance. It is exactly this ability to illustrate stillness with a minimalist approach that has earned Citterio one of the highest honors from his fellow designers—an induction into the Interior Design Hall of Fame.

Then there's Phoenix Products Design, which fuses classic designs with contemporary concepts to produce sophisticated and comfort. Founded by Stan Schlenker and Andreas Haug, Phoenix's incorporates expressions and economy with innovative gracefulness, their products negotiating a fine line between the luxurious and the functional.

Jean Marie Massaud, a multi-awarded designer, uses a nonsensual approach that focuses on the search for the essential, in which individuals are the focal point. Recently joined forces with Axor to develop his vision of the ideal bathroom within the project "Axor MicroCosm." That work has evolved into the newest Axor collection, Axor Massaud, which embodies the designer's organic approach to product design and his celebration of the simplicity and beauty of nature.

Like the Axor Uki with bathrooms perfect for Asian tones modern living with the Hansgrohe Axor line.

Visit Kitayuen Bath Gallery at 4/F Home Builders Section, Gherimall, or at Kitayen Enterprises, Inc at 226 E. Rodriguez St. Ave., QC. Call 7295105 or 7407500.

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Haven for a true DIY guy

NEWSCASTER MAKI SADIO BELIEVES one man's trash is another man's treasure.

He he tries to transform discarded objects into something of value or, at the very least, useful.

Kaimo is a true do it yourself (DIY) guy, a skill that has come in handy in his other passions, gardening. He has developed fair and Makati Edupoints in his garden and built other garden accessories.

Kaimo, who has a workshop in his backyard, says the projects help him de-stress, release tensions and explore his creativity.

He has made a bookshelf, DVD drawer, computer table, headboard and candle holders. For his DIY projects, Kaimo relies on True Value that carries a wide variety of high-quality imported hardware and home-care items.

He has been a True Value shopper since it opened its first store in the Philippines in 1984. He now enjoys the rewards and privileges of a True Value member.

True Value Home Center has branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; Park Square 1, Makati; Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa; Tower Park Mall, Sucat; and Ayala Center, Cebu.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Sea Princess is 'Idol ng Breastfeeding 2007!' /D2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Pitching in for education reform /D3

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Gabaña

Why breastfeeding is pro-health

Low infant mortality in the Philippines has been traced to the low rate of breastfeeding among mothers

MAQUIEN (top) Paolo Pinto; Beale Bo'jo, DOH National Breastfeeding Coordinator; Alan Iellamo, WHO national officer; Tessa P. Valdes with daughter Athena; Health Secretary Francisco Duque III; and Dr. Howard Sobel, WHO medical officer

AS A YOUNG, FIRST-time mother, it was my greatest wish to breastfeed my baby girl, knowing fully well the countless benefits that it would give her.

Back in 1991 there was not much support to be found here in the Philippines for breastfeeding mothers. In my desire to find someone who could motivate and teach me how, I called up the wife of my husband's friend known to his group for and passionate about breastfeeding.

With all good intentions, this breastfeeding advocate came to our house and like a drill sergeant, began briefing me about why I should breastfeed my baby. Because I was taking care of a sickly baby, I was tired from lack of sleep, but she stratified my baby from me and began instructing me on how I should position myself, my baby and my breasts!

Maybe I was simply exhausted, but I could not wait to see her leave. The experience, rather than encourage me, almost turned me off from trying to breastfeed.

The lesson here is that there are many ways to teach and encourage a mother to breastfeed and that the teacher needs to be sensitive to a new mother's emotional state.

The first week of August has been declared National Breastfeeding Week. Today, there are many support groups available for mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies. Hospitals' health centers are equipped with health workers who can offer learning methods on the proper way to breastfeed.

Moreover, in spite of this, the Philippines remains notorious for milk code violations, and day by day the number of babies dying from various diseases (which can be countered by breastfeeding) continues to rise.

UNICEF and the WHO are up in arms against milk companies for violating the milk code. Both organizations say that as a result of this, the Philippines is one of 42 countries that account for 90 percent under 5 deaths globally.

In a talk last week at the Century Park by Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, director of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control of the Department of Health, she said that 16,000 deaths in the Philippines would be prevented with, first, the initiation of breastfeeding in the first hour of life; second, by exclusively breastfeeding the infant for the first six months; and third, for a mother to continue with breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding until a child reaches two years of age.

Consider the following staggering statistics shown to us by Dr. Oliveros as culled by the National Demographic and Health Survey of 2003:

- Only 16.1 percent of infants are exclusively breastfed up to 4 to 5 months of age;
- 13 percent of infants were never breastfed, making the Philippines the lowest ever in breastfed rates among 16 countries that have conducted a demographic health survey in the past decade;
- 39 percent of infants are using infant formula in their first 12 months of life where 20 percent of formula users belong to families living with less than $2 a day;
- Half-stopped exclusively breastfeeding by the third week of life.

Meanwhile, at another forum this week at the Infant Philippine Plaza, Dr. Howard Sobel of the World Health Organization seemed clear, in a WHO Collaborative study on the prevention of infant and child mortality due to infectious diseases, it was suggested that in the Philippines, breastfeeding could prevent over three-fourths of deaths in early infancy and 27 percent of deaths could be prevented into the second year of life.

"Globally accepted studies revealed non-breastfed children have 14 times the risk of dying from diarrhea, 3.6 times the risk of dying from pneumonia, and 10 times the risk of dying from neonatal sepsis compared to those exclusively breastfed.

At the same forum, Dr. Juliet Ilustre Aguilar, professor of pediatrics at the UP Manila and a specialist in pediatric

■■■

MONTE DI PORTOFINO
Your passion for celebration begins

Maverick developer Bentong Corporation, a proud member of Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc., unveils Monte di Portofino. A 1,505 sq. m. clubhouse development, Monte di Portofino is a testament to the grand Portofino lifestyle offering complementing amenities to residents of Portofino Heights, Portofino South and Countryside of Portofino.

Envisioned as the city of grand celebrations, alighting in the porte cochere takes you to the stately halls of Monte di Portofino. The Italian casa shop might catch your fancy or a visit to the superb staple soups you for a glimpse of the beautiful sunset. Entering the ballroom, you will be caught in awe at its magnificence, with wide spaces perfect for big celebrations, and fine details that speak of opulence. Iconic the ballroom, Monte di Portofino provides for an al fresco dining area where you can enjoy elegant meals under a romantic backdrop of the starlit sky. Together with 3 function rooms to accommodate private functions, Monte di Portofino offers a perfect setting for any kind of celebrations, big or small.

The Italian inspiration of Monte di Portofino is evident in the cobbled streets and fountain framed by lush gardens and courtyards. A Colosseum acts as entry point to the pool terrace where you can enjoy cool dips in the pool specially on hot summer days. A River Park, currently in the works, will have a mini amphitheater and a scenic jogging trail surrounded by green, open space.

With Monte di Portofino, Bentong creates a perfect complement to the fulfillment of the Portofino lifestyle. Residents in this masterpiece development now have a place to celebrate their passion for living.

Portofino is set to become a masterplanned development in what is touted to be the New Alabang, coming full circle with enviable access points, masterpiece homes and grand amenities. Be part of the unveiling of Monte di Portofino this Sunday and partake in the celebration. For previews and inquiries, please call 850-2468 or 892-6986, or visit www.bentong.com.ph

Portofino
THE NEW ALABANG

JB PHYSIC Sarah Anne Fernando with Bubs, Bella Lopez with Julia Fernando, Justine Fernando with Jillian Macaldenia and Beth Fernando

"TALKBACK" Taping with host Tina Patiño, Dr. Rebecca Singson, Sen Pilar, Bessie Borja of DOH, Dr. Cynthia Jutco and Elvira Navarro

GIORDANO Philippines top staff with owner Zita Lim and operations manager Joyce Bautista

Breastfeeders of the world, unite!

As 'Idol ng Breastfeeding 2007,' never in my wildest dreams did I think that my breasts would ever take center stage

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE BREASTS OF THE world are in focus this August as World Breastfeeding Week is being celebrated, a tribute to lactating mothers and their happy, healthy babies.

The World Health Organization, UNICEF and our very own Department of Health have gathered together to give their all-out support for this year's theme: "Breastfeeding: the first hour, early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding can save more than one million babies."

What would have thought that breastfeeding needs attention? But yes, apparently new mothers are no longer aware that breastfeeding is the best option for their newborn babies. Indeed, with its over 300 nourishing ingredients, which cannot be duplicated by any formula, breast milk is best for babies. This worldwide campaign aims that exclusive breastfeeding for six months can save more than one million babies.

I'm a true believer in this maternal act and gift. As a mother, I was delighted to be named the first "Idol ng Breastfeeding 2007." Never in my wildest dreams did I think that my breasts would ever take center stage. But for this humane advocacy, I am more than happy to display my breasts. Well, at least in pictures where my baby Athena is attached.

Secretary of Health Dr. Francisco Duque III presented me with a Plaque of Recognition just last Friday during a Breastfeeding symposium held at the Century Park Hotel. In his speech, Secretary Duque shared that he and his seven siblings were all breastfed, in his case for a full 30 months. He credited breast milk as positively affecting all of them, such that they are now all accomplished professionals.

Secretary Duque also noted that his father was also a Secretary of Health for President Marcopagal, this one being GMA's father Diosdado in 1963. What a wonderful coincidence. It can only mean that GMA herself must also have been breastfed!

There is a monumental challenge ahead to spread the right information on breastfeeding to mothers, families and support groups. The DOH has created a stronger Milk Code and named the Mommy-Baby Hospital-Friendly Initiative Program.

Tremendous help

Alaska, of course, is more than helpful, with lots of great tips and stories. For instance, the August issue of Baby Magazine has articles on how to naturally increase boost their breast milk supply. This magazine has been a tremendous help for parents throughout its 11 years of publication. It always has great-looking babies on its covers, but then I'm sure I count as one of the biased many when my debuts was on the cover last year.

On the ABS-CBN ABC show "Talk Back with Tina Patiño," newsreview couple to debut the Milk Code and the benefits of breastfeeding. Dr. Rebecca Singson, one of the guests, is a leading advocate and also the founder of Bubbles Spa, which specializes in lactation and prenatal massage.

We have personalized support, there is Lactation Attachment Training Counseling Help or LATCH (check out www.dreperkins.com). It holds workshops for pregnant moms and provides support to pregnant moms for the road ahead, including hospital rates, pre- and post-partum support, classes and even assistance, and one-on-one classes.

On August 25, it will have a breastfeeding workshop at Medical City One of the members, Jess Tan, was so helpful when I was going crazy with my feeding schedule. Her advice "to just relax and the milk would flow" proved spot-on. I was also successful at breastfeeding thanks to Fenugreek malunggay pills. These natural, vegetable pills made by Herbal Laboratories have the highest dosage and are so effective at increasing my supply of breast milk.

On August 27, is Breastfeeding Success will also be opened at the Diosdado International Airport, a first in the country. It has become hip to feed from Ali Mall have installed Breastfeeding Rooms, so shopping while feeding has become more convenient.

Food festival

A slight digression, while keeping with this column's leisure-centric theme—I'd like to mention Pink Kitchen, a two-day food-and-drink festival at the Shangri-La Mall starting August 11. Pink Kitchen is a project of the Makeover Foundation Philippines (www.makeover.net) and 106-CBS Publishing, the former being an advocacy group that empowers women via information and special services for breast cancer survivors.

Sojourner's food expert, chef Reggie Aquino, and top talented sisters-in-law, Mona Valdes, are among the country's top chefs preparing original and signature dishes from the menus of restaurants' creators. There will also be a salad bar and mocktails and food from San Benito The Farm.

Aside from all that fantastic delicious food, there will be free, special seminars on diverse topics like cake decorating, wine tasting, table arrangement and nutrition. I sure hope there is also a talk on dieting after all that scrumptious food.

SIGNING of the Revised A.O. on Mommy-Baby Hospital Friendly Initiative by Secretary of Health Dr. Francisco Duque III with nurses, breastfeeding experts and doctors in attendance

DOH officers and staff on the World Breastfeeding Symposium with photographer Mandy Marasigan in front

HOTEL Elizabeth owners Bob and Jen Fernando with Jon Lagman

UNICEF Country Rep. Dr. Colin Davis, DOH director Dr. Yolanda Oliveros and WHO medical officer Dr. Howard Sakai

GIORDANO royal family Larry Lim, Lloyd Martin Lim, Zita Lim, Tina Sze and sisters Beatrix and Lloyds Lim

UNIVERSAL Recording lady Kathleen De with husband George and cute girls Maxine Simone and Camille Jessica

DOH Secretary Hon. Dr. Francisco Duque III and Manila City Health Officer Dr. Benjamin Yuan

FUTURE fashionistas Vinnie Bolena and birthday girl Loria Bolena

DESIGNING cousins Sapphire Laurel and Danielle Hermano

TALENTED designer Raja Laurel with Miz Asia

CUPCAKE Princess Sonja Duenas with sweet niece Sammie Ocampo

Fashionable kids

For those breastfed children to be more social and more fashionable. My little Athena is like a mini-me, at the anniversary party of Bubbs, she ready-to-wear kids appeared the House of Laurel, she enjoyed the colorful dresses designed by Raja Laurel and his sister Marianne Laurel-Hermanson.

The little VIP's included the darling girls of the soon-first-and-single again Bubbs Valdesmoa, House of Laurel (tel. 895-5688) is located at 601 J.G. Villena St. in Poblacion, Makati aka "behind Rockwell."

Speaking of fashion, at the opening of the Giordano shop at the newest destination mall, Trinoma, an exciting show at the main runway included the brand's line of kids' clothing. Bubbles director Amille Espiritu got the whole mall worked up as he showed off the entire range of Giordano undies for all ages. No touch is the runway that clothes will only be sold to those who can present a certification that their kids were breastfed.

Pilot breastfed kids get either a merry achiever or mouth. Juliana Ocampo, daughter of my good friends Tina Maldonado and Jilson Ocampo, is now with the Philippine girls' softball team, competing abroad. If that's one baby mood on my way to one million breastfed babies, then that is superb!

Email me at angelinesa@inquirer.com.ph.

THE PHILIPPINE girls' softball team

SIZZLING hot models in Giordano jeans at the opening of the fashion show

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo's

Problem dad

DEAR EMILY,

My problem is my dad. We argue every time I see him and it is my mom who mediates/and harmony at home.

She is dead sure, but I remember how unhappy she was with my father. She even said she would have separated from him many a time, not for me, their only child.

My dad is a good man, but he cannot handle money. We used to have a thriving family business but it failed when he went into partnership with his friend. He never recovered and even went to jail for one night because of it.

From then on, I was constantly afraid that something might happen to him or maybe he will commit suicide, or something... he call my cellphone.

DETRIMENTIOUSNESS

For your peace of mind, have a complete overhaul in your relationship.

Come over and have your father undergo a complete medical checkup. If there is anything medically wrong there, call his attending physician regularly and supply him with his medications there, put his irrigation condition at rest. If it is mental, talk to the doctor and assure them that you will be responsible for the patient. Tak pare for his electricity, water and telephone.

Then you must be an underlying reason why your father resorts to emotional blackmail. What does your daily allowances of P300 cover? If that is to pay for all the expenses mentioned, then definitely will not cover them and I can understand the 600 bargain statistics he has to undergo everyday.

How old is he anyway? Is he over 60? Then just attach your problem to his longer and allow him some comfort there for entertaining guests.

But if he is not yet of retirement age and is in good health, he is a loser in my book and is just abusing the goodness of people to keep body and soul together—and their own.

He is also wasting valuable space on this earth.

Emotions aside, approach with complete detachment any plan to help your father and your family to maintain balance of family before it is too late.

Relationships are not just about money. It is also about loving and caring—and really liking each other, regardless of blood affiliations.

E-mail the author at emarce-lo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer, Visit www.phn.gov.ph and listen to Mr. Marcelo every Friday, 9:15-9:30 p.m., Manila Broadcasting Company, 104.3FM.

Why breastfeeding

From page D1

gastroenterology said that infants who were not exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life have a twofold increase risk for diarrheal deaths and a five-fold increased risk for death from pneumonia.

Every mother only wants what is best for her child. Aguilar said that the impact of breastfeeding is carried into adulthood. She added that the early origins of adult diseases such as obesity, diabetes and allergic disorders could be traced to a lack of breastfeeding when they were babies.

The Ateneo lactating chief added, Aguilar suggested exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months. To avoid allergies, exclusive breastfeeding for at least three months and breastfeeding for six months is indicated. Exclusive breastfeeding for at least four months and to delay the introduction of cow's milk for as long as possible.

It is clear from studies that breast milk always be best. Mariflor's studies proved however it remains not only the nutrient necessary to keep a child healthy but contained in it is the love of a mother for her child—something boundless and cannot be measured. As BRICES says, "Gatas ni nanay walang kapantay."

Breast milk

For pregnant and breastfeeding mothers looking for lactation support, Ob.Gyne Im. Ilustrisimo Hospital has set up its own unit at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Muntinlupa.

Simpson says that pro-natal massage has the ability to loosen catecholamines (stress hormones) that help promote relaxation, alleviating the more complaints of pregnant moms such as sleep problems, neck, back and joint pains.

The spa also offers lactation massage and oxytocin as a home service basis. Call (917) 806-8200 or 771 8200 for more information.

Pink Kitchen

Here's a breast related event: The Pink Kitchen, a food festival that will feature the country's top chefs and gourmet chefs will be held at the Rockwell Tent on Aug. 11 and 12. All entrance donations go to iGatasnets, a breast cancer advocacy group that conducts high impact information campaigns for breast cancer awareness, and provides financial assistance for breast cancer patients in treatment. To reserve your tickets, call the Kusinera Hotline at 687-3942 or 0920 9035052.

E-mail the author at carlyhalun@gmail.com

Pitching in for education reform

By Queenie M. Lee-Chua

FR. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.

SOME OF OUR TALENTED youth win international competitions, but the Philippines ranks near the bottom in math and science rankings. Even Philippine Science High School performs only at the norm of Singapore, Korea and Hong Kong in math and below average in science.

Before we have changed through the years, broke Pres. Ma. in the 1960s in the Revised Basic Education Curriculum of today.

"But the same pattern emerges," says Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., President of Ateneo de Manila University '55, few bright lights and a cluster of poor performances. We are ranked at the very bottom, but so my Japanese colleague says, 'A country can only be as much as the sum of its lower members.' The challenge is to make progress for the improvement of our students."

We often tackle what Fr. Nebres calls access problems—curriculum, teacher training, textbooks, facilities, but lack developed countries like the Philippines.

"Factors there have some autonomy. School budgets may increase or decrease, but they have stability so it is possible to plan. Teachers get a sufficient (though not high) salary so they can concentrate on teaching."

But in developing countries like ours, education is often subject to economic and political pressures. Teachers may be required to act as poll canvassers, their salaries may not be enough, and budgets may be unstable. Aside from dealing with macro problems, we also need to address bigger issues.

Community involvement

The Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) uses School-Based Management (SBM) to improve student performance by SBM, decision-making is shifted hands-of-down from central or regional levels, but rather participated in by school heads, teachers, students, parents, the local government and the community.

"The community has to be involved. TEEP does not promote cookies for the community; we do give parents the support funding, about P10,000," Fr. Nebres says. "If Buhlihut community wanted to fully revamp their school, people could channel funds from meager incomes. After assessing the situation, they found that they only had P9,000. The district supervisor then suggested that she gave the remaining money."

SBM has resulted in more schools ensuring the 75-percent mastery level and the 60-percent near mastery level in the National Achievement Test (NAT). In 2002, the Home Market at the 2nd level features an eclectic collection of furniture and home accessories.

The Gift Market is the ground floor offers cool items for gift giving. Books and contemporary objects are available at the Pearl Market. The fashionistas, meanwhile, will surely have a day at the Fashion Market at the 2nd level.

The Metro Department Store carries an extensive collection of apparel, shoes, accessories and special items. Unique to the store is the wide selection of handicrafts and furniture from Cebu.

Market! Market! is open on Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A fee service transport terminal is available for your convenience. Contact the Concierge Hotline at 856-7328, and the Customer Hotline at 886-7215.

With support from every sector of the community, our children's future can become brighter

TEEP and non-TEEP schools scored on the same level, but relatively more TEEP schools attained mastery level by 2005.

TEEP schools improved a lot in math, mostly due to the Math Teachers' Lesson Guides prepared by the Department of Education (DepEd) and Ateneo elementary and high school teachers. Lessons felt that with the computerized classrooms and lack of resources, student textbooks and teacher's guides were needed.

"With the help of former DepEd Secretary Raul Roco, DepEd was able to provide textbooks for all high school students in a one to one ratio," Fr. Nebres states. "We moved beyond the previous spiral approach to the discipline-based approach. Elementary algebra was taught in first year, intermediate algebra in second, geometry in third, and advanced algebra in fourth year. This meant literally tearing apart the existing books and putting together the algebra parts, the geometry parts, and so on."

The Guides included lesson objectives and development, examples and exercises, strategies for higher-order thinking, multiple intelligences, and values integration. More than 7,000 high school and elementary math teachers then underwent training.

"Focusing on providing enough textbooks and guides, and working patiently with the teachers to use them well, are a way of making progress on a large scale," Fr. Nebres says. "SBM also ensured the entrepreneurial factor."

Pagatas project

Public elementary schools perform better with dynamic principals and community support, according to research done by the Ateneo in the early 1990s. In 2003, with the help of Washington Sycip and Alfredo Velayo, Fr. Nebres initiated a reform project patterned after TEEP for public schools in Payatas, Quezon City.

"We began with data gathering," Fr. Nebres says. "The Ateneo Center for Education's Development became catalyst as a result to together. Because the need for buildings and classrooms came from the shared planning by the community, Mayor Sonny Belmonte moved forward to build them. The private sector came in with other needed inputs like workbooks. The principals and teachers became more confident as a result of training. Student performance improved—the most dramatic in Laguna Pantabangan Elementary School whose ranking in the division level moved up from rank 94 in 2003 to rank 18 in 2004 to rank 36 in 2005 and to rank 9 in 2007."

Synergy

Synergia Foundation, Inc. is a group of individuals and organizations working together to improve the quality of basic education in more than 115 municipalities, 1,000 barangay and 700 DepEd schools, engaging the community and training teachers and principals.

Under Governor Jesse de la Cruz, over 630,000 grade school pupils in 406 schools in Bulacan are participating in the program. In the 2006 NAT, they had a result average of 78 percent in Filipino, English average of 80 percent in Science, and 85 percent in English.

At the start of a reading proficiency program in Lipa City, Batangas, Grade One pupils could only read nine out of four words per minute. Reading their score in the pre-assessment in 2005, Lipa City's NAT average rose 44, in 2006 to 2007, it was 73; the English average of 46 became 75.7.

Education reform is a pressing need. With support from every sector of the community, our children's future can become brighter.

Queenie N. Lee-Chua is a professor of health and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. E-mail bluedoor@yahoo.com

A different kind of Market

SINCE IT OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 2006, Market! Market! is a one-stop mall that has a little bit of everything for you almost anyone.

Located in Taguig's Bonifacio Global City, it houses the National Bookstore, Mercury Drug, Toys "R" Us, and Save More, as well as Healthway Dental City, Sportsterra, Bench 9to5, and Cellphone Malls and Digi Spa.

Market! Market! has a wide selection of fruits, garden fresh vegetables, meat, seafood, deli and other new market staples. It also has regional outlets and kiosks selling finer delicacies from Batangas to Bikol.

A wide selection of food booths offer classic Filipino favorites, from the hungry's home-cooked Manila Seafood's Cafe by.

Window shopping is also an adventure in Market! Market! Wide sells different items for only P99. My Dollar Store and Japan Home Center are also top picks for stores.

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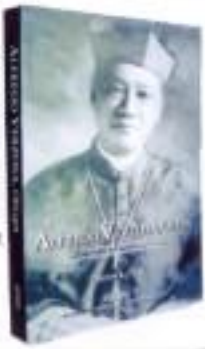
Email: visiontraining@yahoo.com
PV CENTER FOR EYE EMPOWERMENT

'The effort to build a lasting stability for our country requires the daily commitment of everyone concerned'



PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Dayang

Cardinal Vidal supports forum for national progress

LEADERS FROM THE BUSINESS, LABOR, civil society and religious groups met July 27 at the Chapel of the Holy Wheels Golf and Country Club for the reunion of the Kapatiran Laygas sa Pambansang Pag-unlad (Partners for National Progress).

Eleanda Cardinal Vidal of Cebu, who initiated Mass together with Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, gave his support to the cause. The covenant was signed by 30 top executives of different religious affiliations.

Ambassador Donald Dee, special envoy for international trade and chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Cardinal Vidal readily gave his support when the idea was raised.

AMBASSADOR Donald Dee

RICARDO Cardinal Vidal

Initially, Pag-unlad would embrace economic issues involving major issues.

Under the covenant, members pledged 1) to initiate and sustain constructive and meaningful dialogue to address vital national issues that would genuinely change the climate for economic growth, investment and employment; 2) to promote broad-based participation in building greater harmony and cooperation, and 3) to engage in consultation on critical issues with other entities and sectors.

Among the signatories were Joe Carlos, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries; Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of Employers Confederation; Jose T. Pardo, chair of the board of advisers of PCCI; Sande Lim, president of PCCI; Bing Ikhal-Limpoco, chair of the Phil. Franchise Association; William Co, vice president for agriculture of PCCI; Myrna Yao and Marjorie Ortiz-Luis, representing Soroptimist and Inner Wheel Clubs; Ed Lenares, president of the Junior Jaycees; and Vicente Rivera.

Cardinal Vidal said in his homily, "The covenant is not a singular event that remains for all time our commitment to the aforementioned values. Just as the wedding is not the marriage so is the covenant signing not the commitment.

"Rather, the effort to build a lasting stability and equitable development for our country requires the daily commitment of everyone concerned—the businessmen to be conscientious in their affairs and diligent in their payment of taxes; for policy-makers to be sensitive to what is truly needed and executives to be efficient in their daily governance; for churchmen to be honest in their daily lives and practice in their pastoral declaration; for workers to be industrious and the ordinary citizen to be law-abiding in complying with even the smallest regulations of the land."

Those who wish to join Pag-unlad can call Cris Frianeza, PCCI executive director at 895-4949.

San Lorenzo Ruiz in NY

This is the 35th year of the Filipino Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral that Fr. Vince Dee began in 1982, the year after Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz was beatified in Manila. Coincidentally, 2007 is also the 20th anniversary of the canonization of San Lorenzo Ruiz by the late Pope John Paul II in 1987.

On Sept. 23, a solemn high Mass will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 3 p.m. to celebrate the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz. A layman, who was married with three children, Lorenzo was martyred in 1637 in Japan.

The Most Rev. Gabriel Reyes, bishop of Ajaccio and a native of Aklan and Capiz and former secretary in the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Bishop Reyes was instrumental in the establishment of the Filipino apostolate in the Archdiocese of New York, giving Filipinos an official voice and identity.

Fr. Dee has been archdiocesan coordinator since 1990, when the Filipino apostolate was established by the late Cardinal John O'Connor.

Parokyano patroness

The diocese of Dumalaque and the cathedral parish of St. Andrew will celebrate the feast of its patroness, Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso, on Aug. 10.

Novena Masses will be held Aug. 1-9, 6:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. On Sunn day, Masses will be at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 2 p.m. The solemn high Mass will be officiated by Most. Rev. Jose Mercado, bishop of Pagadian, at 6 p.m.

A Rosario Cantado will be held 4:30 p.m. and a grand procession at 7 p.m.

Bishop's book

The biography of the late Bishop Alfredo Browne is now available at Montreal Bookstore, Pauline's and the St. Paul bookstore in Baguhan, Makati. Launched in the cathedral of St. Paul in Vigan, the book was written by Fr. Alfonso Aunat, chancellor of the diocese of Laoag. Archbishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa officiated at the Concelebrated Mass.

Treasury in Petra

Jordan's Treasury in Petra was named one of the new "Seven Wonders of the World." Carved against the pink hillside, the stunning Treasury can be reached on a horse-drawn carriage.

Petra will be part of a pilgrimage that includes the Holy Land and Egypt. It leaves Manila on Oct. 15. Call Adam's Travel at tel. 521-1651 or 521-1638.

Another pilgrimage is also being organized for Lourdes, Padua, Madrid, Montserrat, Rome, Assisi-Orvieto, Brussels, Barcelona and Lourdes, among others, leaving Oct. 14.

Jun Pablo said he received by text at least 187 requests for healing. He showed, he said, many people were sick and needed our prayers.

Dedication

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales officiated in the recent dedication of the St. Alphonsus Liguori Church in Magallanes Village. It was a joyous occasion, especially for Fr. Benito Tesoro, parish priest, who led the fundraising to restore the church after it was burned in 2004. Architect Dominic Galicia designed the building.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Malaysia, truly fiesta

Now is the best time to hop over, as the country celebrates 50 years of independence with a grand bash

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

FLAGS ARE A-FLUTTER ALL over Kuala Lumpur these days. Malaysia is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence from British rule this August, and the word "Merdeka!" (Freedom), reinforced on banners, hangings, pennons and public spaces big and small, is once more on the march across the Malay peninsula.

In August 1957, Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first prime minister, had shouted that very same word three times before a thunderous throng, to mark his nation's final break from centuries of European domination and colonialism.

From the British occupiers, Rahman's generation of Malaysians had inherited a country dominated by the Japanese during World War II and riven by racial and ethnic tensions. Waves of Chinese, Indian and Western migrants had made the peninsula their home, alongside the native Malays. The country was a rustic, agricultural mess once known in the world mostly for its exports of rubber and tin.

Great leap forward

A walk through KL and its prosperous neighboring states today brings into high relief just how much Malaysia has transformed from its troubled beginnings to a nation now a few brisk slip of First World living standards. The famous Petronas Towers, currently the world's tallest twin structures, are more than the crown jewels of the KL skyline. They have become an emblem, a visual shorthand, for the success of Malaysia's great leap forward.

With the entire country in a fiesta mood all year round, now is the best time to visit Malaysia and sample its kaleidoscopic attractions. This is a country, after all, that counts a heritage drawn from all over the globe, from Arabia to Holland—a dazzling mix reflected in its crafts, cuisine, dress and architecture.

"Visit Malaysia 2007" has some 58 major events lined up for visitors, the grandest of them this August (visit www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my/).

The culture is rich and ancient, but the modern embellishments are just as arresting. In KL, the Moorish splendor of the Sultan Abdul Samad building (built in 1897 and home to the High Court that heard Anwar Ibrahim's trial in 1999!) blends quite gracefully with the contemporary edifices all around it.

Much of KL, in fact, looks spanking new, but the vestiges of its colonial past have

HOLIDAY E2

BLEND of old and new: 19th-century Sultan Abdul Samad building in downtown KL

SUNWAY Lagoon—a gigantic version of Splash Island, with four waterfalls, cavernous pools, hanging bridges, water-soaked rides and thrills, and posh villas for accommodation.

CABLE cars that ferry visitors to Genting Highlands provide panoramic views of Malaysia's great expanse of rain forests.

CHILDREN up close with sea creatures in Aquaria KLCC, a multi-tiered attraction that offers a fascinating collection of water fauna, including several species indigenous to the country.

Malaysia, truly fiesta

DWELLER of Malaysia's great local heroes? Petronas Towers at night

THE LANDMARK Seri Wawasan Bridge in Putrajaya

EATING street food in Jalan Alor, a town's hop away from KL's swanky commercial district.

THE BUSTLING, upscale shopping district of Bukit Bintang, with the KL (Menara) Tower in the background

MULTICOLORED baskets sold on KL streets

Transcription:

been assiduously preserved, and now serve as points of historical interest in the sprawling glass-and-steel metropolis.

Among these are the Istana Negara, the gilded residence of the King of Malaysia, with its ouch Pinokio-like Oriental-style changing of the guards; the K Railway Station, a magnificent building of Indian-magical arches and minarets, near the country's tall cenotaph hub; Merdeka Square, where the Union Jack was lowered in 1957; and various other important mosques, temples and memorials.

Check by jowl with these heritage sites is the vibrant, sophisticated side of KL. Upscale malls can be found in Bukit Bintang, with its mix of local shops and global brands. At the base of the Petronas Towers is Suria KLCC, another vast shopping arcade. Everywhere are bars, restaurants and nightspots at every swipe, from the ubiquitous Starbucks to Indian divey such multi-ordered hotshots (from Planet Hollywood, that quaint relic of '90s celebrity excess, is still alive here.)

Themed attractions

Malaysians are also into themed attractions big time, whether outdoor or indoor. Aquaria KLCC houses a fascinating collection of water fauna, including several species indigenous to the country. At Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, entrant feels in what can only be described as a gigantic version of Splash Island, with faux waterfalls, cavernous pools, hanging bridges, water-soaked rides and thrills, and posh villas for accommodation.

This 800-acre leisure destination also outlines Malaysia's eagerness to gun for world records, starting with the Petronas Towers. Sunway's Surf Beach is said to be the world's largest manmade beach, with 6,000 tons of sand recreating a tropical paradise within a much larger resort.

More firms are proudly knocking at one of the country's premiere mountain resorts, Genting Highlands. At 1,800 metres above sea level, this complex of hotels, malls and theme parks has year-round cool winds, cable cars and panoramic views of Malaysia's great expanse of rain forests.

Dominating attractions in this sippy pooh is the First World Hotel, not only for its Lego-like facade—almost a surreal sight in the foggy landscape—but also for its 6,118 rooms, making it the biggest in the world. The five hotels in the complex account for over 10,000 rooms in all.

Delivering guests to Genting are cable cars that ply the 3.4-km steel cable car trip that run for 3.4 km and take about 12-15 minutes—the longest cable-car system in Southeast Asia and the fastest in the world, they say.

Apotheosis

The urge to build reaches its apotheosis in Putrajaya, a brand-new, full-scale city erected from forest and wetland in the state of Selangor. A brainchild of the former prime minister, Mahathir Mohammad, Putrajaya was envisioned to be the country's new seat of power, the nexus of political, religious and bureaucratic power in the country.

Putrajaya's splendid green-domed Perdana Putra building houses the office of the Malaysian prime minister and his government. All government offices are also located in the new city.

In KL, despite the new chic, the old Malay soul remains. You can find it in street-food corners like Jalan Alor

change welcomed shape from boulevard to boulevard, while the bridges are visual marvels on their own.

There is, of course, more to the Malaysian character than these flashy constructions. But for a glimpse of the grit, its decisiveness and vision that have lifted their country to new heights, one need only marvel at the clean, well-run and sparkling hubs of community that Malaysia has built for itself.

In KL, despite the new chic, the old Malay soul remains. You can find it in corners like Jalan Alor, where a mere hop away from KL's skyscrapers, locals and tourists alike devour street food amid the sweat, smoke, dust and chi of the city.

If you do you find yourself digging into satay and laksa in Jalan Alor this year, raise a glass to Malaysia and wish it long life. The old word still is: 'Merdeka!'

Cebu Pacific flies to KL every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Return flights to Manila are every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Call 7920000 or visit www.cebupacificair.com

E-mail the author at pauli@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gilbertolio.com

THE MASSIVE Palace of Justice in Putrajaya

FIRST World Hotel's Lego-like façade is almost a surreal sight in the foggy landscape of Genting Highlands. The hotel, with 6,001 rooms, is the largest in the world.

PUTRAJAYA'S splendid green-domed Perdana Putra building houses the office of the Malaysian prime minister and his government. All government offices are also located in the new city.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings

THE BRIDE dances with Italian Louis Kierulf (above); Aranza kids Daniela, Samantha and Christopher with butterfly giveaways

THE COUPLE with the officiating priest

A New Yorker wedding

By Maurice Arcache

A TOAST from brother Alex Kierulf and sisters and Maids of Honor Cassandra R. Murry and Jacqueline Kierulf

GODMOTHERS Liz Aranzamo, Liz Cowper, Jojo Zabarte and Vivian Rocales

DAVID Eby and Vanessa Magsaysay

AMALIE and Roman Arjonas

FRAMING Jasmine, the newlyweds, Louis Vergeron (seated) Marilou Sese, Mayenne Carreon and Baby Fernando

DAMIEN and Katrina Barrameda with cousins Anthony Kierulf, Christian Kierulf, Brian Fletcher, Fritz Aranza, Franco Linjawa, Jill Kierulf (seated) Christine Fletcher, Sharon F. Aranza, Kitty K. Linjawa

ANALI Palapak and Raymond Rufino

ANDY Torres, Amanda Santos and Ginny Baron

KATRINA and Damon with principal sponsors Sen. Richard Gordon and beautiful wife Kate

BRIDESMAIDS Elisa Aranzamo and Marilou Jasper

VINNY d'Brides

CHARINA Sevilla

Dazzling twinkly lights lit up Sanctuario de San Antonio Church in Forbes Park as tall, handsome groom Damien Barrows II waited for his gorgeous bride.

Beside him were his best men, Vincent d'Andres and David Eby, and equally dashing groomsmen Avery Tolignano, Alec Kierulf and Emil Cuenco Jr.

The bride's parents, mega businessman Louis Kierulf and Fox Beltran Kierulf welcomed the 200 invitees.

Fashionably on time were hottest principal sponsors such as Sen. Richard Gordon, Albert Tan, Joel Mendiola, Romeo Vergara, Joel Kierulf, Reg. Lieutenant Antonio Aranza, Liz Cowper, Betsy Cotton, and Vivian Rocales (greeting for Ronnie Abrina and Lira Sichon, respectively). The women were all eye catchers in gold and cream gowns.

Wedding among the crowd were inside of house and sisters of the bride, Casey and Jackie Kierulf, and bridesmaids Aranza Mayuga, Elisa Aranzamo and Marilou Jasper. Other members of the wedding entourage took their places for the most awaited march.

Ring bearer Christopher Aranza, coin bearer Gaylen Fletcher, bible bearer and reader Daniela Aranza, flower girls Antonella Aranza and Sandy Calleiden were all cute in their gold gowns with burgundy ribbons.

Secondary sponsors were the bride's Bon cousin Sharon and Fritz Aranza, well Jam and Siggy Manglapus, cord, and Paula Bondoc and Brian Fletcher, candle.

Stunning bride

The wedding ceremony began with Ilonna Francis' "From This Moment." The stunningly gorgeous bride, Katrina, marched proudly to the middle of the aisle where she met her adoring father who accompanied her to the altar to join her husband-to-be.

She was flawless in the Rhinestud gown by Greek designer Christos of ivory-satin silk chiffon detail on the empire waist and hem and intricate illusion lace detail on the sides of the bodice and train.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, of Ateneo de Manila, celebrated the Mass. Michelle Beltran was lector. Daniela Aranza read the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm; Joanna Ang-Gopez, the Second Reading; and Marie Calimlim, the Intercessory Prayer.

Church music by the Matching Symphony made the weekend, who witnessed the beginning of this lifelong romance, feel romantic, too.

The grand reception was held at The Loft in Rockwell, which was fantastically decorated. Ivory drapery blanketed the ceiling where dozens of white Japanese lanterns hung. The Loft was bathed in dramatic lights turned from pink and red to yellow then green.

Small bouquets of white roses adorned the tables, which were complemented by warm gold Tiffany chairs and accent dark tablecloths.

Ms Mae's excellent culinary creation had everyone complimenting the dessertss herself, Glenda Barrows, for the awesome dishes.

The centerpieces of each table was a three-tier long black vase with black twigs interspersed with white orchids. Square plates complemented the modern design of the rectangular. Tania Bondoc's creative Asha Lin whipped up a delicious five-tiered frosted cake of ivory-decorated with white roses.

Serenades

One of the touching moments was when the bride and her father. Afterward, bride and groom were serenaded with their song, "You and Me," by Lifehouse.

The hot beat of popstar DJ and creator of the bride Anthony Kierulf got everyone rocking and rolling during the after-wedding party that lasted, to true New York City style, until 3:30 a.m.

Katrina went to Hewitt Learning Center then studied at Ateneo de Manila University. She lived in New York City for seven years, working at Star TV, a division of News Corporation, for four and a half years.

She finished her master's degree in Strategic Communications at Columbia University. She has been working for The Wall Street Journal for two years.

She and Damien met in 2004, six months after Damien moved to New York. Before moving to New York, he practiced law in Washington, DC, for seven years. He has been senior counsel for almost four years at Hoffmann La-Roche, a large pharmaceutical company.

Damien proposed to Katrina in April 2006 at the historic restaurant Over It By Land, Two If By Sea in New York City's Greenwich Village. Following tradition, he asked her father, Louis, for her hand the day before.

Katrina did not know what Damien had in store for her. During dessert, he made her open a small antique wooden box that contained, as he described it, "all the things I love about you."

There were dozens of tiny white cards, each one giving a reason why he loved Katrina. They included "the way you make me laugh," "the way you support me," "the way you cook nothing makes," "your family," etc., etc.

But there was one card that stood out from the rest—a solitary red card asking her to marry him.

After seven months of long-distance planning, their dream finally came true.

TED Camacho and girlfriend Cristy

PATTY Cojuangco and Ana Marilia Moreno

LEN Olivas and Marife Portier

Macau receives Pata award

THE MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST Office (MGTO) received this year's Grand Award for Heritage from the Pacific Asia Travel Association (Pata). MGTO was cited for its "2006 Macau World Heritage Year" campaign. A Pata official said the campaign boosted the economic value of the city's rich heritage, positioning and promoting the historic center as a must-see attraction. MGTO director John Manuel Frade Antunes said the award recognized their determination and continuous effort to promote the unique Historic Center of Macau. MGTO will be honored at a special luncheon on Sept. 26 during the Pata Travel Mart 2007 in Bali.

High-flying partnership

Citibank Credit Cards has lined up with Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles. With the latest addition to the frequent flyer programs of the 2000 Citibank Rewards cardholders can exchange their Citibank Points for Mabuhay Miles and avail of free PAL flights or flight upgrades. Citibank cardholders can contact the 24-hour CitiPhone at 8908888, and request for the conversion of reward points to Mabuhay Miles. Every 1,25 points is equal to one Mabuhay Miles. Aside from Mabuhay Miles, Citibank cardholders can also avail of getaway packages, hotel accommodations, gadgets, home appliances, toys and more.

Travel Briefs

Family activities

Camp John Hay has become a retirees' haven. Senior golf enthusiasts will likely find the John Hay-designed par-60 championship golf course friendly on challenging. "Any can say a round of golf with a view of the cedar log-built clubhouse. Camp John Hay offers other enjoyable activities for retirees like eco-trails, jogging paths and horseback riding. It has saunas, jacuzzis and massage services. Camp John Hay has luxury hotels, country homes and eco-villas. Call 6209988, e-mail cjhmarketing@campjohnhay.com.ph or visit cebuvisitorsbureau.com.ph; visit www.campjohnhay.com.ph.

Home in paradise

Crown Regency Resort and Convention Center will offer members year-round access to regional homes in Boracay. Regency can either reside in their units or join the hotel pooling through the development project's condotel operations. Sitting on a 17,000-square meter property, Crowne's current project by J. King and Sons Co. Inc. It is located in Barangay Balabag and consists of 162 rooms with standard hotel furnishings, crown-has bathrooms, conference rooms, gym, convenience, food and beverage outlets, and five largest swimming pools in Boracay. (Crown Regency Realty Development Corp., 632-45-51-1111)

International tourism fair

Travel executives from all over the world will attend the 1st Philippine International Tourism Fair (PITF) Sept. 3–7 in Cebu. The country's only international travel trade fair will be held in conjunction with the Department of Tourism's (DoT) Philippine Travel Exchange 2007. Both events will be held at the new Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) in Mandaue City. PITF 2007 is organized by the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies and Tour Philippines Travel Mart Foundation (632-7422) and 6329800; e-mail johnsabio@gmail.com; www.pitf.com.ph).

MALAYSIA Airlines (MAS), flagcarrier of Malaysia, was the official airline of the recent 10th Rainforest World Music Festival in Sarawak and the 21st Penang World Music Festival in George Town. The recipient of the World's Best Cabin Crew award and the Economy Class Onboard Excellence 2006 by Skytrax United Kingdom, MAS is also a partner in the year-long celebration of Malaysia's 50th Merdeka (Independence) Day and Visit Malaysia Year 2007. In photo is MAS country manager Soh Meng Kong and Tourism Malaysia marketing manager Ena Lye Cavenna.

The Sports Center at Metropolis Star Alabang is the best place to work up a sweat or watch those muscles! Located at the center north wing at Level 1, the Sports Center offers a collection of the hottest indoor sports for sports fans and health enthusiasts.

Fully equipped boxing area at Kingpin Boxing Club • Two full-size basketball courts for badminton courts convertible to volleyball courts • Billiards and table tennis • Gymplus Fitness Center for weight training, body building, martial arts lessons and the latest fitness exercises • Indoor tennis for start and summer offering sportswear fitness center.

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eGmall

Metropolis

Tuesday: Comedy Nights at Cuba Libre, 9pm
Friday: Showtime and Sundays: Live Band at Cuba Libre, 9pm

Mondays and Thursdays: Audition Nights at Cuba Libre
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays: Live Bands at Cuba Libre
Sundays: Comedy Nights at Cuba Libre

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: Live Band at Points Bar

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

Josh Hartnett in Diwalwal

US ACTOR Josh Hartnett, star of "Black Hawk Down," arrives in Manila on Thursday

By Bayani San Diego Jr., with reports from Dennis Jay Santos and Joselle Ruddle, Inquirer Mindanao

A VEGAN, HOLLYwood star Josh Hartnett will feel right at home in Mount Diwalwal, one of the Davao region's vegetable-producing areas.

However, a source who is part of the local production team told Inquirer Entertainment that Hartnett's party was served guinumay (tapsi) and adobo. It was not known what Hartnett ate.

Diwalwal is a mining village in Compostela Valley which is home to some 40,000 families. Hartnett is shooting an international movie titled, "I Come With the Rain."

Described as a "thriller," the film casts Hartnett as a Los Angeles detective who travels to Asia in search of the son of a Chinese billionaire. The missing heir turns out to be a faith healer. The detective is haunted by memories of a serial killer.

Hartnett previously starred

(CONTD)

The mining village is also a vegetable-producing area, so the vegan from Hollywood should feel right at home

Hunk flees from fans and fotogs, forgets b

SEXY ACTRESS IS COMPLAINING that a fellow hottie has been the cause of delay in their shooting.

Whatever for? "She takes hours to get ready," she inked on our visit a friend. "She needs makeup all over her body (big dimol sabing-chenes)!"

That has to be loosely translated, means "blemishes galore."

According to the grapevine, sayhins had the same problem when the starlet posed for a men's mag.

No gentleman

Remember the guy who stunned fans at the airport?

The same hunk went to a movie preview at Mall of Asia's Imax theater with a pretty starlet as "date" (we're not sure).

To avoid the unsightly and suspicious-hungry fans, the guy sneaked out minutes before the movie ended.

He left behind the poor starlet, who had to climb down Imax's long flight of stairs on her own, to killer stilettos.

KSP trio

A bewildered tour star relayed to Bandera the weird behavior of three female "gatchasers" of a reality show.

The stars (hints alright) from a car and they walk all over Redwood Homes/para mall as though parading on their private catwalk. Just as quickly they left in the same car, which was waiting at the cold.

"Walang to passin," said our stay in luxurious.

Casting coup

Pepe Smith, an An Tesi Umaw Ibes announced with fellow rockers Joel Rey, Rizal Advent, Bing Belles and Mon always: "There's no much power in this group. So, I don't feel like a senior citizen in their company. I'm over dun ... and hark-a-dancy."

The director, Mel Mackenzie, says the rock icons personify the producer's "ups and tums."

Gaming Gabby

Thousands of Pinoy online gamers are expected to play the game of their life in Lineage 2 kabla sa much anticipated Southeast Asian open beta launch, which started Aug. 1.

Among the 1-5 million gamers from all over the world is three-year girl Gabby delaMaternal, who qualifies as a "Gamer." She says the game "[has met] everyone's expectations." We bet, the better is, "I can chat with fellow gamers while playing ... and it has great graphics."

Top of the tabloids

The top stand his stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are moved, if we are moved).

•Andrew de Bebes: My sex is sex free drugs.

Sister-sister

•Cristine Reyes, pinagmukhang walang ref work si Ina/mare niya.

•Cristine: "Hye, pagmamarites- sila eto."

•Cristine, no thanks a Brand de Leon.

•Cristine, sure "solid as jeskies" lang kay Ara Mina.

•Ina Mina, hindi pumayag sa love scene nina Sid Lucero at Emilio Garcia. (Medyo confusing, 'no?)

•Ara Mina, kinagat ng Pilit si Manny Pacquiao! (Grrrrrling!)

•Ara, mas sang-ayon sa mahigpit ng sweet.

•Ara, Arjo pa ang maghubot. (These last two don't always go together.)

'Sus, Guinot!

•John Carreon at Aurora Gamboa parody ating mga "Brokeback moments" as showtime. (Bakla nanaman ang Basketball Diaries.)

•Jaime, takot pang umuwi dang mga OB.)

•Bandolet, nagkuh na "Showtime," •Bernardo Arnegan as "Showtime" dahil walking lang.

•Bandolet, nagkuhan ni Valerie Concepcion as Dra?

•Bandolet, nagkuhan ni Valerie Concepcion as Dra?

Lip service

•Brenda Mills says Madam Sunnen's lips sore sweet.

•Rhia Salvador feel na si John Lloyd

GIRDT do'is Herzel, right

ang "blessing" ni Sjwoon.

•Hoje, kinulit kay Richard Gutierrez. (Sino kaya nanga?)

•Richard boy Jinday, Anne Curtis or Claudine Barretto nga kaya Aubrey Miles or Kristine Uth, ano ba 'wan?)

•Unknown, napalove sa lalaking nakaone-night stand niya!

A close of Angel

•Kadenyan ba kay Angelicang Pelaez!

•Ang si Angel Locsin ang bida ng BB!

•Hinanap ni Angel ang heart in death ni Willem Gallvanese. Pahwang-awa nlang ba kay Angel.

•Shannon Rivera, nasa magandang mood matapos ang love scene kay Angel.

•Hindi, nyway inging ulit ang papasiko kay Angel. (Uyi, ang.)

•Hindi, dapat nagpasiklaan nga ito, gil.

An overdose of Angel

•Dyan kumpisi ni Jhong sinabyan: Angel na mainvan ni ulitan ito ni Richard Gutierrez ni GMA-7.

•Angel, sensible na 7 dahil si Jhong TV sa sensitive!

•Angel, sensible na mga sinasabihan ni Willem Gallvanese ng GMA-7.

•Dyanlet Tellis, sandali ay tayo ni Angel ni pop alli ni GMM (Tama ba?)

•Angel, nanawang-nanawagalan sa Dra?

•At ni, nagpapatunay na kay Angel: "Sorry hindi nanapakalakas ang thang nalang ng Sun at pagkasi sejat!"

•Becky Aguila, nirekuhan si Willem Gallvanese.

•Willem, pinilipas sina Becky at Angel.

•Jhong Hesa: napakaaggling si ito girl.—Eddie Y senior programming manager.

•Becky, sobra raw "demanding". Lawyers na kung sumasi ang ang ganap.—Mother Lily.

•Marietta Aguanta, pinagiling kumpisi si Angel. (Ano 'di nakung figure 'di nakung sili.)

•Mother Lily sa Jose Sisenan: "Don't touch Angel." (Off tard.)

•Angel...kawang pinahin ni Kim.

•Angel, bibintar ng black propaganda! Ung galing nga, e. The show goes on nalng nalang.)

No retreat, no surrender

•Instagrown talent ng GMA 7, management ni Marian Rivera.

•Martian, pinagkunkan ang "Martian"; kumuha ng cinematographer bago mag-audition. ngayon mag-aaral manood kumanon (Thirsty Dyan, ITE.)

•Sam Mina, kilig na kilig kay Dennis Trillo.

•Ara, aun kay Bernal, kbo, kissing fi scene nanon.)

•Alindog ni Wendy Valdez, di matanggan ni Dra.

•Sweet (Quotes), enjoy sa love scene niln ni Nikki.

•Antoinette nay Paulo Fontero.

•Medo nerrogar ni love scene niln ni Ada.

•Ada, parang Angel na ano! (Speculation!)

•Hindi ako sabih sa Ada!—Angela de Leon.

•Chris Tsuis sobrang hot! Wet Gonzaga. (Quality quality Quest.)

JORGES GUINOCO

ADRIANNE QUINOCO

is date

•Nyon pinu-a nyon dramatic nyo-ranga preparation hubay. (How dramatic than what?)

•Nyan Agassilla, di makaangay ng word hay Motion Lily.

Hathaway pressure

LOS ANGELES—She has acted opposite stars like Meryl Streep and in movies including "Brokeback Mountain," but for Anne Hathaway, the pressure of playing French screen icon Sabina in film drama "Becoming Jane" was so great, she almost quit.

Hathaway, 24, is part of Hollywood's young young stars who recently were out of cabled headlines dominated by troubled young celebrates. Her new movie opens in major US cities today.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself," Hathaway said in an interview. "There was a time when I considered stepping away from the project because I didn't want to fail." Reuters

Avon calling!

MANILA, Philippines—Actress Witherspoon is now an Avon lady. The Oscar-winning actress has been selected as the company's first ever global ambassador.

Witherspoon, 31, will serve as honorary chairman of the Avon Foundation, which focuses on the issues of breast cancer, domestic violence and emergency response.

Terms of her multiyear agreement were not disclosed. AP

REESE WITHERSPOON

For grandchildren

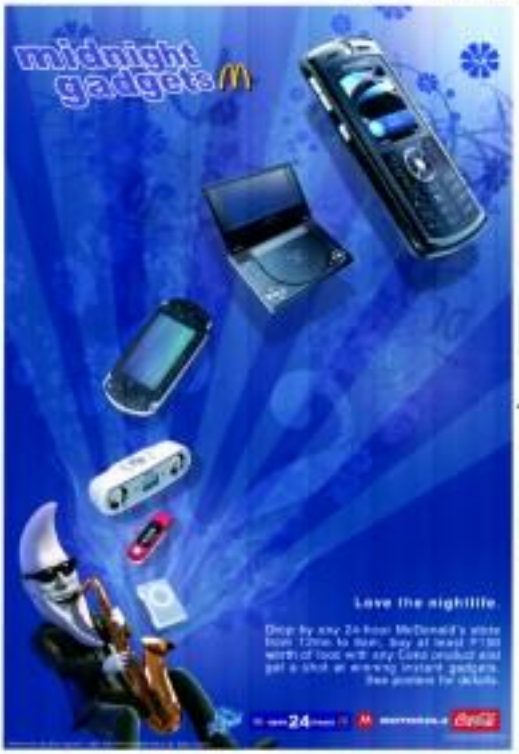
LOS ANGELES—Actor Jackie Chan is still doing his own stunts. In "Rush Hour 3," he did one "hell of frigging and accidentes on top of the Eiffel Tower."

He told reporters: "I can tell my grandchildren, 'This is your grandfather.' That is me. That's not a double flying around the Eiffel Tower in 360 with my bare hands." AFP

Billy Baker, Marc Abaya, Dom Ampil and Papa Dumb

HAIL BOY

ANGEL LOCSIN



HE STARRED in such blockbusters as "Pearl Harbor," left, and "Black Hawk Down," above.

Josh Hartnett in Diwalwal

Viewpage F1

in such blockbusters as "Pearl Harbor," "Black Hawk Down," "30 Days and 30 Nights" and "Hollywood Homicide."

"I Come With the Rain," produced by Central Films, is directed by Marquez's Eran Aoh Hung, whose "The Scent of Green Papaya" was nominated for an Oscar Best Foreign Language Film in 1994.

Filipino filmmaker Mario J. de los Reyes, a member of the local production team, confirmed that several Filipino actresses are playing support characters, like sexy star Thea Aquino, who auditioned and won the role of a stripper.

Local 'extras'

Also set to share the screen with Hartnett are local residents.

Village chief Feranez Tito told the Inquirer that the shoot was supposed to start Friday. He was quoted in a local paper as saying that "200 residents would be hired as extras for P300/each."

Another source claimed that 250 Diwalwal residents were to be hired as extras, "four times the usual ... in local movies."

According to the anonymous source, 6,000 troops have been mustered for the production team's security.

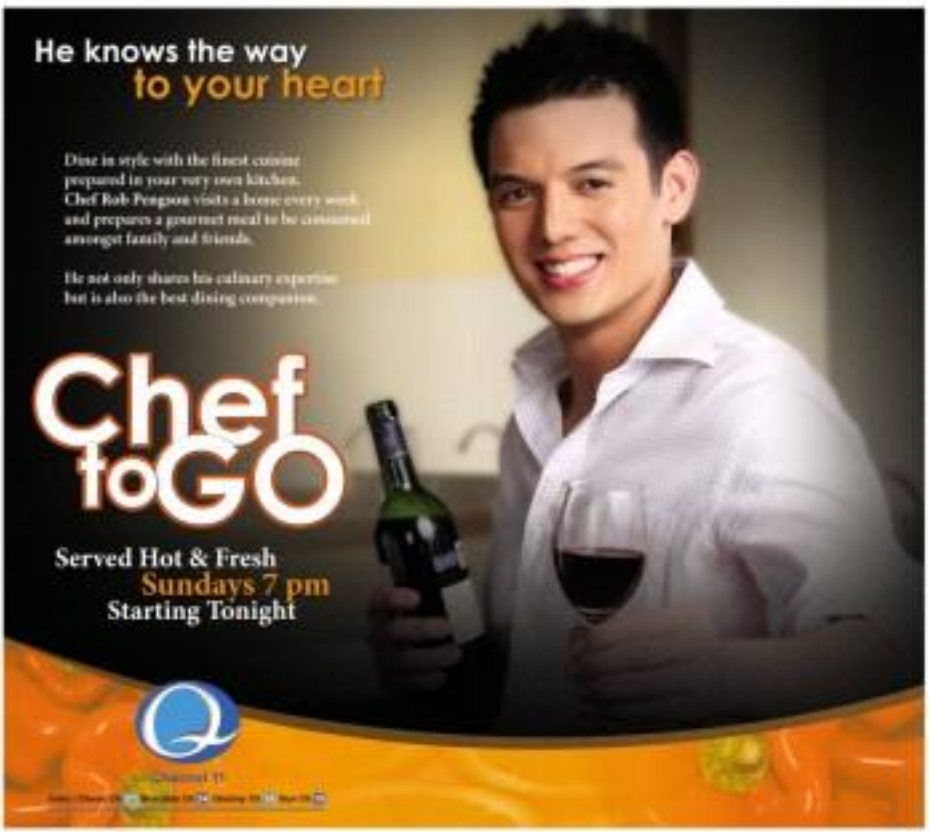
Compostela Valley Governor Arthur Uy told the Inquirer that Hartnett was to stay in Diwalwal for seven days: "Rep. Manuel Zamora arranged everything. Harmers stayed in Zamora's Dynasty Palace overnight and left for Mondays at dawn."

Mount Diwalwal was the "scene of many gold-rush conflicts and tragedies in real life," said a report.

A gold rush site in the 1980s, Mount Diwalwal is now under government control, according to another report, hundreds of people have been killed there due to accidents and acts of violence.

In 2000, a cave-in caused the death of at least 11 miners in Mondays, although a report from the Office of Civil Defense pegged the number of fatalities at 34, with as many as 68 miners trapped in the site.

This, however, said the foreigners picked the location "because it is now peaceful here. It's our chance to prove to the world that Diwalwal is no longer like the Wild West."



ENTERTAINMENT

Citizen Imee spearheads film, animation, digital media movement

'These are our most beloved geeks. We can work and come up with Original Pinoy Content'

By Oliver M. Palankari
Contributor

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN IMEE MARCOS recently announced the creation of Creative Media and Film Society of the Philippines, or "Creadd," a coalition that aims to unify people from the independent film, animation, and digital media industries. The launch of Creadd was hosted by Marcos herself, with works by the various co-founders and member groups simultaneously being looped on a number of screens all over the venue, the Ridgeway Inn in Greenhills, Pasig. The event was attended by representatives of different local organizations and foreign embassies, as well as practitioners from the industries involved.

Creadd, according to Marcos, intends to position the Philippines as heartland for creative media capital. "We bring together all our talents in the creative media. We're putting together the creative industries of film, animation and innovative digital media, our game developers who are our young and restless superstars. I'm certain that we can lobby and work together and come up with 'OPC—Original Pinoy Content,' at the end of the day, content is king. Ako, acting, sing, may nanalong salonga ang Pilipinas. Even if we are grateful to all the outsourcing that has been granted to the Philippines, from which we have learned our craft and our skill, it is time for original Pinoy content."

TAKE FIVE

Mina Caligata, managing creative director of animation company Arthrin, helped choreographer the movement with Marcos. "Just have the above-the-line talents advocate of original Pinoy content," Caligata said. "I'm one of the first few independent producers who braved the perils of going into original Pinoy animation. Creadd wants to nurture the creative industry. It's a private sector support system for the original content producers that intends to lobby and create opportunities. There will serve the interests of the indie/content producers and artist."

One of the guests, indie filmmaker, TV ad director and film teacher Raymond Red, expressed optimism for the fledgling alliance. "I'm sort of an outsider here but I was interested by Imee, so I'm checking out the scene and what exactly the group wants to achieve," Red said. "Of course, they're part of Red is what interests us independent filmmakers. We want to see how it will go and see our participate. The only flaws you it, by inviting all the sectors, we become establish part of the society. This gathering is to signify our interest to collaborate. It's a very unique idea, it's the first time that it's this diverse. And it's pulling together resources, institutions, and different groups to put up a society, to push for the collective, culture and entertainment are classified under the creative industries. So it's our hope that we'll be able to bring some attention as well as some support for all these young artists. These are our favorite, most beloved geeks.

So this is your advocacy, now that you're not in politics?

That's right. I'm Citizen Imee. I've moved on to the private sector. Pinoy ingenuity, pinoy creative industry (the sc Philippines, although considering people who do other jobs, culture and entertainment are classified under the creative industries. So it's our hope that we'll be able to bring some attention as well as some support for all these young artists. These are our favorite, most beloved geeks.

Why do this now, instead of say, a year or two ago?

Wala po akong time, maglolaan noon, eh (laughs). But I've never really left the industry, insofar as I was only on the other side, on the regulation and legislation side. I take another call—ano nga ba yon?—the one that gave tax rebates to quality films, also the anti-piracy bills. That's why we have the most commitments for commercial artistes of the American Embassy, Toyota Motor, Intel, as well as Canada's and Singa-

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Cinemalaya outdoes itself

Any of the competition entries this year could have won Best Film

By Lito B. Zulueta

IMPRESSIVE IS CINEmalaya's third year. From the competition entries to the exhibition movies, from ticket sales to congress participation, the film festival signals that Philippine independent cinema has definitely arrived.

The short films in competition prefigure the diversity and quality of the competition entries. Maika Aliser's "Estilo Thirdy" and Hindi de la Cruz's "Masterying Pepe" are dark and well-made. Yuri Munkeepeit's "Diring" is an eerie cinematization of the drug-deranged mind. Lawrence Fajardo's "Linenang sa Dilim" is also about substance abuse but richer in symbolism, more sophisticated in approach.

A beautiful moral fable is Isabu Gaerlan's "Tagpuglighter," an appreciation on the issues of abortion. Hubert Tibi's "Huling Hirsuteco" is an engaging story about the friendship between an eight-year-old boy and a much older Chinese boy. Ver Acedillo's "Isla," which won three screenplays, is also about a friendship—between a young boy left home alone by a working mother and an icon of the Infant Jesus.

"Cubao," which won Best Director for Emmanuel de la Cruz (who directed the features length "Sarong Banggi," one of the notable entries in the first Cinemalaya), is an effective conjuring of a dead Marcoso girl back to life to fulfill a promise to her parents.

The winner of the Special Jury Prize, Enrico Aragon's "Brainball," is a very funny satire on ballads, with Efren "Bata" Reyes appearing in a cameo. Alvin Yapan's "Relyo," which won four Short Film, is a beautiful self-reflexive film on the power of the cinema, its metaphorical discarded films rolls made to seem birds off on the fields effortlessly illustrating the moment of a very young person's self-editing and sorting out of agonizing, commercial, and sensitive images of his everyday world.

Confidence, flair

The wide variety of genres represented by the competition entries indicates the confidence and flair of indie film makers. Some are conventional dramas, but none of them are predictable studio "sure things."

"Gulong" and "Kadlit" are children's films. "Ligaw Liham" is a period drama, and so is "Pinay." "Yakuz" is a mystery, and to some extent, so is "Still Life." "Tribu," the big winner, is an urban drama and a musical, while "Enda" is a contemporary proletarian romance. So festival in three parts has offered as varied a fare. Cinemalaya has simply outdone itself this year.

Because of the sheer diversity and outstandingly fine quality of the entries, the jurors found it difficult to pick the winners. But this we love, what happened to the rest of the five jurors—along with Carmen Directora Bonoglio, home programmer Lourdes Portuguese, Cinemalaya Mara Tesoro, broadcast personality Mo un Rustriceno, and National Artist for Theater Dodgie Salvador Bernal—nearly all of the entries deserved to be given one of the awards, including Best Film.

'Gulong,' 'Ligaw Liham'

"Gulong" and "Ligaw Liham" have specific virtues. Directed by Soddy Fernandez (whose "Layla" won the Emerald Onion Best Short Film in 2004), "Gulong" is relatively immune to concrete that evokes the unflagging optimism and good-heartedness of the streets. Planning a two-month summer break, three Efrenes Fruitcct, his best friend and a cousin agree to visit a Bulacan several miles away. To make it there, they raise money for an old bike whose ownership cannot but a life. Indeed with the kids as much as with everyone past. The movie may have a tendency in its

to be in the south). Its conversation of the past is effective and, to some extent, entertaining. But it is hobbled by stilted dialogue in Filipino, which is delivered with accent in all the wrong places by nonnatives of the provinces and by Visayans, one its principal plot hugs wouldn't have could the townspeople have not suspected something was wrong all along with the local postal service? It is indicative of a romance for nostalgia just for the sake of nostalgia. For all of its remarkable evocation of a faded era, the movie leaves the viewer feeling uncommitted.

"Ligaw Liham" is based on a little known incident in Negros Occidental, when a town's post office was completely closed down in the early 1970s, leaving a number of lives disconnected and disoriented. But, the town idiot, emaciated of a young woman who finds her letters to her Saigon-based husband unanswered, starts delivering to her destinations personally from the mail. It turns out that her suspect them from the man's letters which are kept in the post office by his (Soot's) brother under orders of the mayor. When the townsfolk discover the padlocked post office, Nan's well-intentioned but twisted life is also forcefully out.

Directed by Jay Abello and Manny Morelibrano, "Ligaw Liham" indicates a growing film regime in the south (the film's countries is Negor Gallega, now based in Bacolod and the gem of a growing artistic and media community

'Pinay'

Another cresation of the past is "Pinay" by Jerrson Sollie, perhaps the most ambitious movie in the competition. Both an autobiography and an international history, it tells of interwining lives at the Philippine Science High School during the crucial transition between the Marcos dictatorship and the Edsa revolution. Drawn from among the best and the brightest of the Philippine population, the students struggle with their adolescent dreams and frustrations like genius pigs subjected to natural selection, a form of social engineering much like Plato's Republic or the utopian experiments like Edsa Shaw's Barrio Fiesta, such as Orwell's Big Brother or Orwell's "1984." In the end, they either conform to or rebel against the institution, if not negotiate an uneasy truce or an uneasiness pact, like the director who broke his high school continue to go into the science after graduation and who set up the arts instead. Now, in his adulthood, he is forging a reconciliation by making a homecoming/tribute movie to his alma mater.

"Pinay" is grand filmmaking at its most historically suggestive; it doesn't believe in "objectivity," but Jerrson the award winner fudges does the job in a painted by very, he sets up a number of issues and fills it with interesting lives, in well-appointed, probing details. Well-delineated characters are set against the landscape, and the fine ensemble acting spearheaded by Elijah Castillo, Gaverny Lopez, Arnold Reyes and Eugene Domingo, fully brings them to life.

All of this film artistry, however, may beg the question whether art should really be pitted against science, or whether science should remain the plumbing/leg for all of art's considerations. The line between the arts and the sciences is, after all, a modern dichotomy. In the classical mind, there was no such dissociation, as shown by the humanities and the liberal arts. Where, toward the climax of the movie, art is made a tool against oppression, one can't help but feel a bit queasy at the romantic dependence of art and protest. Art is as much subject to politics and exploitation as science. Both are equally prone to horrible excesses and exhilarating explosions.

'Tribu,' 'Still Life'

Both Dennis Marasigan's "Tribu" and Katrina Flores's "Still Life" are conventional feature-length films with a difference. "Tribu," which won Best Screenplay, unravels a thoroughly engaging mystery of a girl's death while revealing the shorter motives of the suspects. "Still Life" is a beautiful story of how an artist stricken with a mysterious disease of progressive paralysis. Inscribes thoughts of suicide after an encounter with a woman who becomes his model and muse. It features powerful performances by sculptor actress Gloria de Castro and theater actors Ross Capinding and Irma Adlawan.

'Yakuz'

"Yakuz" fulfills the promise of Adolfo's first feature-length movie, last year's "Donsol." The new movie follows on Irenea Jose's picaresque wanderings through the vast landscape of Batanes as he looks for the family's missing goat. The lonely search amid the terrible beauty of Batanes, its windswept pastures and craggy terrain, makes with its minor feeling and poetic meaning. The movie won Best Cinematography and Best Musical Score.

'Enda'

Without a doubt, the two best movies of the festival are "Enda" and "Tribu." Much has been written about these two works that are poles apart in their artistic approach, but are roughly complementary in their sociological awareness.

Jade Castro's "Enda" is a totally arresting and very effective depiction of the plight of "end-of-contract" workers, who are forever consigned to semi-serfdom of exile by a global economy in which the profit bottom line is considered an absolute. The movie, which won the Special Jury Prize, tells of the romantic and economic struggles of a college dropout who finds it more and more difficult to play the role of family breadwinner as he hops from one short-lived service-oriented job to another. Meanwhile, he struggles to keep the flame of romance alive between him and his very spirited and more emphatically girlfriend, who represents the permanence and stability that he can only dream of.

The movie is really about true-crossed lovers in the harsh setting of labor economics. Part of its power derives from Castro's effective collaboration with cinematographer Hermann Claudio and production artist Raymond Lee (the same people behind Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros), and also from the very poignant performances of Jason Abalos and Iza Feliss, who won Best Actress.

'Tribu'

Like Joshli's "Pinay," Jim Libiran's "Tribu" has touches of autobiography. A sociologist, poet and documentary filmmaker—and himself Tondo-bred—Libiran seems predestined to make this ultimate statement to the Tondo of mud huts and terrible legend, the Tondo of both gentle dreams and murderous filth. He presents Tondo's seemingly desolate slopes in the context of inner-city gangs who turn their industrial pipes and flats their entertainment and go on a tribal rampage as easily as they rap or wear pro-rate dance their wig their suppressions and frustrations, like the outbreaks of more horrific, less violent times.

Libiran's thoroughly knows his geography. His Tondo reeks of the true effluvia of human sewage, jiduing with the din and blare of its music and enthusing the howl of animals led to their slaughter to films. Amid the melee is also humanity and tenderness, as shown by the warm interaction during family dinners of the gang members.

As in Lino Brocka's actual realist dramatic classics—as in the recent excellent "Tribu" with its lamentable drive toward violence and death, and the viewer may balk at its utter violence, its downright kindness. But again and again, the movie rises to poetry energy and vitality for its perfect marriage of digital technology and social documentary and for its scale, ambition, and poesy. "Tribu" truly deserves to be declared Best Picture.

The dramatic progress of Filipino indie cinema is the silver lining to the ever-moving artistic bankruptcy of mainstream Philippine cinema, underscored by the shameless commercialization of the Metro Manila Film Festival. Cinemalaya, along with other festivals which have programs on digital features,—such as Cinemanila and Cinemanila—has truly given impetus to independent cinema. For making Cinemalaya a beacon of hope, credit should go to the Cinemalaya Foundation and the festival organizers, and businessman Antonio O. Cojuangco, who provided the bank-a million pesos grants to jump-start the productions.

Citizen Imee spearheads creative media movement

From page G1

post's [representatives]. Ilang walang pera ang Pilipinas, we're also hoping for co-production deals with other countries. Alin ang mapkyud, save ang mag-talent.

How promising are these artists, and where do you see them in a few years?

Take a look. I think our gaming industry which is the equestrian studios made it so long ako, very hands. But you can see that it's going somewhere, it's growing 500 percent this year! So we're really excited.

How optimistic are you about opening new doors for these disparate groups of creative people?

Ang mga bagets ay talagang magagaling. Kailangang [unreadable] And this is the direction of the rest of the world. We see [unreadable] content. Forbidden has a lot of platforms already, but they're only modes of delivery. Are we using [unreadable]? That's the question. Content is king.

How actively will you be in promoting and representing Gerald?

I'm very much into it. It's going to be my prime focus for now because it's him. And it's a complete change from ... Congress.

Will you return to politics one day, when you're not feeling like "Citizen Imee" anymore?

I don't know. I never want to say never.

So you see yourself hosting a TV show again? Back in the '80s, you had "Kaili Bulilit."

Oo nga, nakalabas [laughs]. I started with [unreadable] TV. "Kaili Bulilit." I think I recorded all the kids on Saturday morning! But it was a lot of fun. Stress-free, I've done a lot of stuff, including [unreadable]. Ability to sign kanta: yung "Himala" at "Ono, Pluto, Mars" na primadyos ko, eto pekukundi ko.

How do you feel about the eclectic group of attendees here?

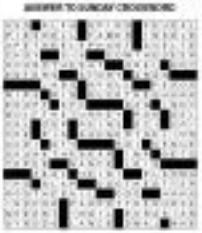
Alin ang mga pinuntos ng movement na ito. Sino. Raymond Red, sino Kaliet Tolentino, Step Jamie. Monet[illegible]. Sisters Amore-Ima, Julia Amoras, the stalwarts. We're hoping, sinan the movie industry keeps dying, that our friends from Singapore, Canada, France, and Spain...those who really invest in, and do co-productions, overseas...will give some help. May pera sila, may tradesh tayo.

I'm thrilled by the attendance. All the kids were surprised that the embassies and they were coming over. Parang, "Oh my gosh, they're taking us seriously? Kinatchi-de lang nanood nanon 'yung mga nanonood gano'n lang gano'n, of daughts.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Delegates to the Asian Performance and Media Arts Workshop share corner stage during the Cultural and Presentation Night at St. Paul's University in Quezon City. NCCA Executive Director and PM on Culture Cecile Guidote Alvarez (center, bottom row) is flanked by actors, filmmakers, dancers, singers, painters and painters from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The whole delegation joined in "Galing Ginoo' Ugnayan ng NCCA at Sing Ed sa Taog ng Bayan" ceremony with Asian Secretary General Mr. Eng Kun Yong. The program airs on NBN-4 every Sunday, from 4 to 5 p.m. Also in photo are director Nick Lizaso (kulot shirt) and creative manager Frank Rivera (wearing head cloth).

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



DID YOU KNOW...

Warned: funds for Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD HAS been tapping funds from abroad in an attempt to spread the risk of its high budget productions. Here are some facts:

▸"Final Fantasy," a $32.31-million computer animated film by Sony, was almost entirely financed by Japan's Square Pictures.

▸Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York" for Miramax has been largely financed by the Luxembourg entertainment company, Initial Entertainment Group.

▸Revolution, a studio started by Joe Roth, a former Disney chief, has raised a say $50 German-based Senator Films, Tokyo Tawa of Japan among others to get funds up to $500 million to make films starring Bryan Willis and Julia Roberts.

▸The Bahamas gave a 17 percent refund of money spent in the islands, provided a production hires at least eight locals. At just 50 miles from the US mainland, it has brought big productions like "Casino Royale" (2006) and two of the three installments in Steven Soderbergh's "Ocean's 13" from Universal. Pictures "Casino."

▸"The Last Samurai," with Tom Cruise, was shot in New Zealand, which provides vast [illegible] locations. Reports from Reuters, Hollywood Reporter

Song credit thieves in US pop music

NEW YORK—IF ALL THE names in music, Dimitri Ehrlichkik may be the least likely to appear in a headline. Though she recently released her own album, the songwriter usually stays behind the scenes to pen hits with artists such as Kelly Clarkson, Gwen Stefani and Avril Lavigne.

But under the moniker Kara, she's tricked the pop music world by supposing that Lavigne was a collaborator in name only. Although the quickly executed fan connection and album debuted, Lavigne, the flap threatened a long-standing bond that has become more prevalent than ever "image-competitive" who do much less songwriting than their publicists would have you believe.

It's cruel!" exclaimed Grammy-winning songwriter Diane Warren, who has written for artists such as Whitney Houston, Celine Dion and Mary J. Blige. "How can someone look in the mirror and know they didn't do something and their name is on it? For money? For credit?"

Money factor

This being the music industry, money is of course a factor, since the writers of hit songs can earn more than the singers over the long term. But today's singers also yearn for writing credit because it gives them more of a cachet, presenting them as more of a "real artist" in comparison with a non-songwriting and multi-talented.

"It's a presence that's been going on but now it's really prevalent in every situation," says songwriter Adrian Shoogukian, who helped pen the hit "My Boo" for Usher fans and Usher, and has worked with Gwen Stefani, Ciara and others.

Shoogukian says that many artists will only allow songwriters to work on an album to create the song credit, and "if they do write, they ask for more publishing than they honestly contributed ... it is the way it is."

Precedent practice

The practice has been prevalent for decades. Elvis Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, reportedly got the King songwriting credit on early hits like "Love Me Tender" even though he never wrote a word. James Brown was said by an associate even song credits.

The system that rewards artists have to some then even songwriters have grown over the past two decades. Today, even the flattest of pop tots is credited as having written their own material.

AVRIL LAVIGNE

Says Andy Dodson, an executive vice president of EMI Music Publishing: "I think people place more of a value on an artist if they write their own songs, it gives them credibility."

Indeed, Lavigne's songwriting abilities have been touted since the Indie out in a town with the hit "Complicated." But how much she contributed to her more fun long been scrutinized.

Songwriter?

On her first album, Lavigne worked with the writing trio The Matrix, but ditched them on her second album when she felt they were taking too much credit for the songs. "I am a writer, and I won't accept people trying to take that away from me," she told The Associated Press in 2004.

She connected with Bridgman on her sophomore album and the two became close friends. Kara's attorneys said her songwriting skills in an interview with the AP since 2004—which made Lavigne's comments in Rolling Stone Songwriting Magazine all the more curious.

"I mean, Avril, songwriter? Avril doesn't really sit and write songs by herself or anything. And will take your fee related line, and as one says anything," Bridgman told the magazine before retiring her statement.

AP

ENTERTAINMENT

OPM sings a new tune

By Cora Lucas

THE ORGANISATION HE PILIPINONG Musiq-saurit (OPM), a unified group of homegrown talents, is singing a different tune.

While OPM president Mitch Valdes and her execs are still bogged down by the blues over unfair and unprofessional industry practices—entertainment media piracy, lack of laws that protect the rights of performers, lack of local job opportunities, excessive taxes levied against concerts and difficulty in collecting royalties—positive changes are slowly taking place.

Now, the OPM is keeping a close watch on the entry of foreign artists in the country to ensure that its members are not relegated to the background or deprived of an audience.

TAKE FIVE

Thanks to a memorandum of agreement that the OPM and the Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino (AMP) recently signed with the Bureau of Immigration, the two guilds now have the power to screen foreign artists wanting to stage concerts here.

In working for reforms, the artists first prayed that their goals are best achieved when they sing in unison. This was what gave birth to OPM, which was formed in 1986 after the folks revolt, with Celeste Legaspi as president.

The OPM has since succeeded in creating ripples, notably the creation of an Artists' Equity Program, which requires foreign artists to pay a token amount to the group.

With the strict imposition of equity regulations, OPM hopes to put the study back in the Philippine concert scene.

Sidebar speaks to Inquirer Entertainment about how the real but fellow singers are advancing their cause.

What, exactly, constitutes entertainment media piracy?

Legally defined as "the use of copyrighted or protected materials without authorization or legal right to do so," piracy is further treated by anti-copyright statutes as the commercial use and abuse of intellectual properties without payment of royalties. Whether it's large-scale duplication for commercial purposes or a simple act of burning pirated CDs or unauthorized downloading of copyrighted music, video or literary works from the Internet, the act already constitutes media piracy.

What's the latest on the proposed bill to prevent entertainment media piracy?

As far as we know from the most recent draft, the bill proposes stiffer penalties for transgressions of intellectual property rights (IPR). However, the bill is now considered dead until the present set of newly elected legislators decides to resurrect it in the new Congress.

What existing laws protect the rights of performers?

The IPR Code, also known as Republic Act 8293 principally authored by the late Senator Raul Roco, assigns economic and moral rights to performers over their works. Economic rights mainly refer to authorization rights for broadcast and other communication to the public.

Moral rights include the right to be identified as the performer and to object to any distortion, mutilation or other modification of the work prejudicial to the performers' reputation.

What about artists' royalties from radio airplay? Is it a new, effective government aid?

While radio airplay is part of public com-

OPPOSE

Bishops may endorse 'Tribu'

By Marinell R. Cruz

JIM LIBIRAN'S DEBUT FILM "TRIBU," which chronicles the activities of rival Ilib gangsters in Iriedo, may yet get the endorsement of Catholic bishops.

The first film in the full-length feature category of the all-digital 2007 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition was viewed by Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez and Antonio Tobias on Friday night at the CCP Film Center.

"I was told that the bishops would endorse the film if they liked it," Libiran told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday morning.

"Tribu" won award for Screenplay in the 2000 Ikranos Memorial Awards for Literature.

The director said "Tribu" has received—and accepted—an invitation to compete in the international category of the Dawnmanila International Film Festival, which is scheduled from Aug. 6 to 19 at the Gateway Mall in Quezon City.

"I plan to grab every chance I get to have the film shown because I'm afraid the MTR-CB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) may not give it a favorable rating," said Libiran.

Meanwhile, the works of prize-winning filmmaker Khavn dela Cruz are set to be showcased this month in film screenings.

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6 RATATOUILLE

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2 LICENSE to WED
3 SINKING of JAPAN
4 RATATOUILLE

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1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 BUG
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4 OUIJA
5 RATATOUILLE
6 OUIJA
7 BUG
8 WILDERNESS
9 BORDERTOWN

LIPA

DASMARINAS

1 NEXT
2 BORDERTOWN
3 CASA
4 OUIJA
5 RATATOUILLE

IMUS

1 BLIND DATING
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 LICENSE to WED
4 RATATOUILLE
5 CASA
6 OUIJA

ANGELES

1 RATATOUILLE
2 FRACTURE
3 OUIJA
4 PLANET TERROR

TARLAC

1 OUIJA
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 VACANCY

STARMILLS

1 IN THE LAND of WOMEN
2 RATATOUILLE
3 BUG
4 OUIJA
5 PLANET TERROR
6 HARRY POTTER 5

BACOLOD

1 NEXT
2 FRACTURE
3 OUIJA
4 RATATOUILLE
5 RESERVE
6 HARRY POTTER 5 / THE LAST MIMZY

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1 NEXT
2 OUIJA
3 RATATOUILLE
4 PLANET TERROR
5 THE SIMPSONS
6 HARRY POTTER 5

OPM s

ings a new tune

Turn page A-9

At the Cinemas

GLORIETTA 1	1	2	3	4
GLORIETTA 4	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	
GREENBELT 1	1	2		
GREENBELT 3	1	2		
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At the Malls

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- Ayala Center Cebu — Uplong Kwak, August 3 to 26, 2007 at the ATEC Annex
- Market! Market! — Local Idol Idol, August 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center
- Cinemalaya — Repertorio Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids, at ADP's Dulaa Theater - Opens August 11, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 887-37-70
- Ayala Museum — EXHIBITIONS - a solo exhibition of colorful sculptures by Renee Ildefonso, July 19 to August 5, 2007. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 loc. 213 or email museum_inquiries@ayalamuseum.org
- Tri Noma — Merchandise Action, August 3 to 5, 11 AM onwards, 4 pm & pm at the activity center. Serve with Sincerity, August 10 & 11 at the Activity Center

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MOVIE GUIDE
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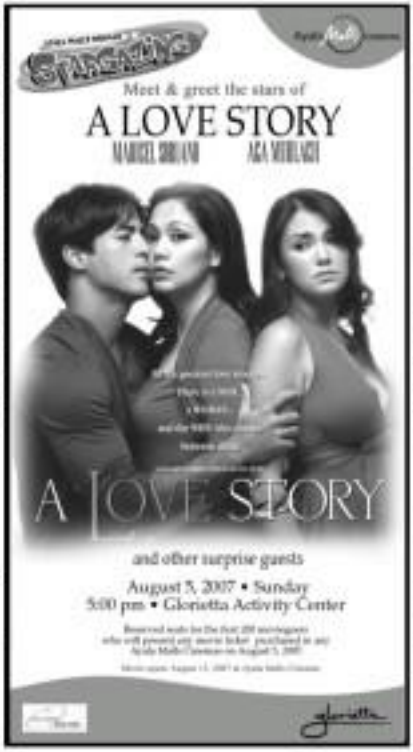
Bishops may endorse ...
Front page 4A



SECOND "TALK OF THE TOWN" WEEK!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINME

No coffee rush for Jackie in RP

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Reuters

LOS ANGELES—JACKIE CHAN HAS HE metlapplite in his career as an entertainer of stee but in his role as a businessman trying to open a chain of Jackie's Java Coffee shops in the Philippines, he has met a stumbling block.

At Jackie's recent press conference to his new movie, "Rush Hour 3," we asked the star if the first coffee shop in the chain is open in the Philippines. He flew to the country a year ago to launch the first international franchise of his Hong Kong-based coffee shop chain.

Jackie, who is always an entertaining interviewee subject, often stood up, sang, danced and dished jokes at the press con. The comedian-actor-and's fastest English to point of his charms. He replied in our question like a good storyteller would, setting the punch line at the end. "I had a one day holiday. They (Manila reporters) told, 'Please come. We have a lot of people waiting for you.' I got a private jet. We flew over, though there was a big typhoon. I got there, told Seth to start body and flew back (to Hong Kong). Then Java needed us."

"They cried you?" one of our colleagues asked him.

"Yeah," he answered. "They said you can see any Java (in) my coffee shop district or we snapped." Jackie did not offer specific details on who or which entity is trying to prevent him from using the word "Java" in the name of his franchise-style coffee shop chain. There is a business entity already named Jackie's Java Hut's registered in Colorado. Could this be the first chef's suing to prevent Jackie from using the name, Jackie's Java Coffee?

When we followed up on the subject, the undisheartened star replied, "We are in negotiation."

"I KNOW, and appreciate the fact, that many Filipinos love me," Jackie Chan tells the columnist.

"Since we switched to Sun, we've saved over 80% on our phone bills."

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Cristobal, President, Rotary Club of Makati Poblacion

"Sun is practically an honorary Rotary Club of Makati Poblacion member."

Chairman of 24 words and four simple questions, the Four-Way Test is the Rotary Club's mark of service. It has stretched boundaries and continents. Its timeless message appeals to everything thought before time.

Sun was subject to the same test, and passed with flying colors. One could see how it lives up to the Rotarian mode of service quite well.

That's why most Rotary Club of Makati Poblacion members now use Sun for their communication needs. Members can easily be reminded of weekly club meetings and other special events. "There's no need to rush calls or text them.

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'Five years ago, I said, five more years and then I retire. But now, I don't know how many more five years'

No coffee rush for Jackie ...

From page 9

tinction right now. If I remove me, Jaya, I will call my chain Jackie's Ninja Coffee Knights. But I want Jaya in the name. So Jaya Ninja, no Cha Cha. I own me Cha Cha Ristorante," Jackie said with a laugh. "I'm only half-serious."

Apparently, the size of Jackie's Java Coffee is not the chain's concern in being legally challenged only in the Philippines. Jackie, who operates other businesses, insisted, "This year, we will open 10 in the Middle East and Africa. The investors joked that nobody would break a Jackie Chan coffee shop [laughter]. I said, 'Oh, is that right?' They said, 'Sirit.' Because everybody loves you." (After the press con, Jackie did tell us that he's serious and appreciative that many Filipino movie-goers love him.)

He announced, "We are also opening a few in Malaysia and Singapore. On Jan. 1, 2008, we will open the first one at the Beijing airport. Our thought is each is opening more, too."

Buddy cops

In the meantime, there's "Rush Hour 3," where the married actor-actress reunite with Chris Tucker again as buddy cops. But this time they bring the action to Paris where they battle a crime family. Directed once more by Brett Ratner, the movie begins with an action-packed sequence set in downtown Los Angeles before the odd couple move on to the City of Light.

In that fabled European city, Jackie and Brett had the pleasure of having the reliable director, Benjamin Pedarrick, as an unlikely guest star. Surprise, surprise—Benjamin, an acclaimed filmmaker, is a fan of the previous "Rush Hour" movies. Adding to the intercontinental flavor of the cast are esteemed veterans Max von Sydow, Julie Dreyfus (daughter of Brenda Dreyfus), Hiroyuki Sanada, Yvan Attal, Séverine Caneele and Zhang Jingchu.

Jackie acted like a fan—and who wouldn't be?—when he strolled here the film production had the Eiffel Tower at its disposal, from midnight to six o'clock in the morning for several days. When Brett told him that they would be shooting music on the famous landmark and not just use it as a backdrop, he said, "Are you kidding?"

Jackie shared Brett's response and the ease of the assignment: "Yes, we could a lot of money."

"How much money?"

"Like a couple of million dollars. We can focus on us all the lights. We can do whatever we like to."

And so they did. Brett, whom we interviewed separately, also boasted like a boy at a toy store when he shared his thrill at being able to tell his assistant director to unlock the elevator on the Parisian landmark. He admitted giving the command "three or four times" just for the sheer pleasure of seeing the Tower go dark and then ablaze with lights again.

As Jackie's cues, he remembered "being there 30 years ago. We had to get in line and there are some registered [as with all the other people when we were inside."

No daring action

Fresh forward to the present: "I had my private director (laughter) with an eight-man and a security guard." He was able to explore the landmark by just pointing to closed areas and saying, "I want to go there." Doors were opened for him.

He enjoyed the freedom to roam anywhere on the steel structure. But there was one thing he wanted to finally to do but couldn't: do all the insane Hong Kong style (actually, an unlucky premonition, more correct) the third and final "Let's do it the Hong Kong way." That since "Rush Hour 3" is an American production, stuntmen doubles for liability clauses forbid him from indulging his more free-flowing side.

Brett explained: "Jackie jumped into an elevator shaft. The difference was he had 10 cables connected to him so if he fell or missed the elevator shaft, he wouldn't fall. If he was in Hong Kong, he'd be like: 'OK, let's do it. Quickly. Let's go.' Boom, he would do that. Jackie is crazy. It has been proven that he's crazy (laughter)."

The actor's assertion of how his friendship with co-star Chris grew from "fake" to a true one was complete with gestures and facial expressions. "Honestly on 'Rush Hour 3,' it was all fake. All I could say to him was, 'Hi, how are you?' Because my English was not that good. And he's a very shy boy. He is the one who is not to me but I was shy. When Chris said, 'Hi Jackie, good morning,' I answered. Our communication with a head nod and all the lights on the Parisian landmark. He admitted giving the command "three or four times" just for the sheer pleasure of seeing the Tower go dark and then ablaze with lights again.

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JACKIE Chan and Chris Tucker flank as the odd-couple fighting cops in "Rush Hour 3"

nods of his head), 'Hi, good morning.' Then I walked away.

"I told the driver to put my trailer away from his trailer. He was hiding. I was hiding. We only saw each other on the set. By the time we finished the movie, we were already becoming friends. But I returned to Hong Kong and he stayed in America. When we saw each other again to promote the movie, we stayed at the same hotel. We ate together almost every night. We got to know each other better.

"When we made 'Rush Hour 2,' we were good friends. Now we are brothers (laughter). We came to Hong Kong to vacation and see me. I came to the US to see him. We showed up to Games where we went out, ate and had drinks. Now we talk about our families."

Speaking of Hong Kong, he's on a mission to make Hall holding chairs. He declared that he once ran after a car when he saw a passenger whom a stylist ran the street. "It turned out to be a mother with her children," Jackie said. "I told her, when you throw trash anywhere, your children will learn from you."

Good training

He showed that steadiness and nobility were already ensconced inside the home. "I have never dropped one rice grain on the table. Because when we were young, if you dropped one rice grain on the floor, you got one slap. When I drop food on the floor, I pick it up and still eat it. That's how we were trained. Now, the children are not wild. They tell us, 'Don't hit me. I will tell you.'"

With his hands, he demonstrated how he even arranges his shoes neatly back home. "I teach my wife and undermine," he said in guffaws. "Go to my bedroom right now at my President's suite," Jackie dared. "That's how we were trained. My son, until now, his shoes are like that (he showed how the pair is not aligned). He never listens. I have been telling him for 28 years."

Asked if he has any dreams left, Jackie, who is 53, replied, "My dream is to continue filming until my body tells me to stop. Five years ago, I told everybody, 'Five more years and then I retire.' But now, I don't know how many more five years (laughter). Right after 'Rush Hour 3,' I released 'The Forbidden Kingdom' (his movie with Jet Li). We broke the records. In September, we shot another film which I will direct. After that, in 2008, Zhang Yimou and I will make a movie."

'Rush 3' sequel

With his storytelling flair, he added, "So I told Brett and Chris, if you want to make 'Rush Hour 4,' it will have to be in 2010 [laughter]."

But he does have another dream—to nurture new talents. He said, "I started a new company in China that will make 10 small budgeted films featuring new directors, actors and actresses—everybody to have a chance to help new talents. Otherwise, it's always Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Jackie Chan, Jet Li (laughter). My started a program like 'American Idol' in China. I am looking for the new Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Michelle Yeoh and so on. We also need some great coordinators. Otherwise, it will always be the same people. No new guys."

Our colleague who saw him at an LA store buying gardening and cleaning tools asked if that's the way he likes to spend his free time in the US. He replied, "Each time I am in America on vacation, I go to home improvement stores. Last time, I bought cleaning tools and shipped them to China."

"But you don't all these things made in China?" another reporter reminded. "Yeah, everything's made in China, but I cannot get them in China." He got another laugh on that one, of course.

E-mail the columnist at ernestoa_2000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Showbiz Reporter," on www.inquirer.blogspot.net/showbizreporter.

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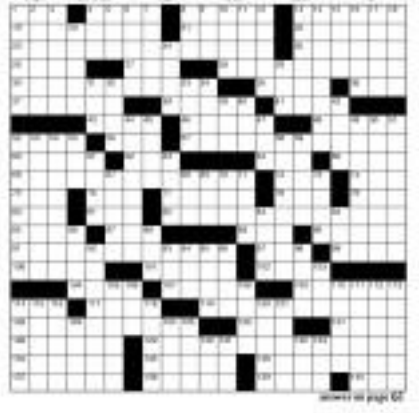

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"OSS 117 is BETTER THAN 007."
—French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel
"One of the MOST ENTERTAINING FILMS of the year. The premiere night crowd was beyond appreciative. LAUGHING SO HARD at one joke, they very nearly missed the next."
"It's damned FUNNY. The laughs go from smirks to sonic eruptions. Joy has been in short supply at the movies lately, and OSS 117 was a SHEER DELIGHT."

Out of sight, out of mind

ANGEL LUCHEN HAS GONE ON VACATION from her high-flying career, reportedly to take a course in fashion design in Italy. Wrong move. With only a few exceptions, the viewing public here doesn't take kindly to stars who put their careers on hold to attend to their private lives.

When stars on leave decide to resume their careers, they often discover that those who fans have latched onto other stars or new starlets, and aren't enthusiastic about supporting their comeback bids.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Nuevo

Exceptions

There are exceptions, of course, like Vilma Santos and Sharon Cuneta taking time off to have babies without losing the bulk of their fan base, which chose patiently their comeback TV and film movies.

Please, note, however, that the likes of Sharon and Vilma were firmly established veteran stars when they went on extended leave from the show biz. Their fans were already "time-tested" and proven to be loyalties through and through.

But as for relative newcomer Sandara Park, who some years ago made the big mistake of flying home to Korea to reunite her mother for some six months.

Disappointing

People warned her not to do it because she was a big sensation at the time, starring in hit movies and TV shows. But Sandara ignored the warnings, flew home to Korea, did what she felt she had to do, then eventually resumed her career here, and ... oh, what career?

That's right—her disappointed fans, deprived because they felt neglected, duly punished her comeback venture—and Sandara learned her lesson the hard way.

Will Judy Ann have that happen to Angel Locsin, who's impressed us with her hard work, going from one hit TV film project to the next with enthusiasm and resolve.

Risky move

Recently, Angel impressed us all the more when she turned down producer, a risky move at this unskilled time for local films.

There may be unstated reasons for Angel's feelers on, issues that may have only she knows, by certain problems in relationships, career disappointments and other reasons, hence her need to get away from it (and, We don't know, but leaving at this time could only make things worse).

Career reactions are work for relationships only if they know enough-otherwise TV-film productions behind to keep their fans happy while they're gone. Without such a "support" mechanism, the other decision would be to stay the course and further build up on already flourishing show biz career. Otherwise, as far as local fans go, it's out of sight, out of mind.

Feedback

From Letter & Parel of Quezon City: "What will it take for new indie filmmakers to make the transition to mainstream cinema? The tough job for them is to be able to retain their indie spirit and sensibility, while making their movies more accessible to the larger market for popular films.

"I think is not possible for most of them, they have to develop their own audience and market and make films large enough to financially support their indie movies. But, the larger the market, the less private the filmmakers' inhibitions and symbolisms should become.

'Unaccompanied Misery'

From director Paul Soriano (TV's "The 10 Best") comes "Unaccompanied Misery," now on DVD. The film is about five young underdogs who evade the authorities at the airport where they have been stranded by a massive snowstorm. Starring Lewis Black, Wilmer Valderrama and Tyler James Williams.

GMA

AGOSTODO na'to

TODONG-TODO SA MGA PROGRAMANG BAGONG-BAGO!

NGAYONG GABI NA, PAGKATAPOS NG ALL-STAR K!
Unang TV tambalan ng real-life sweethearts Boosing Vic and Pia Guanio!

SA AUGUST 13 NA!
Muling maapapahig ang buong bayan! Starring Marian Rivera as Marimar at Dingdong Dantes as Sergio!

THIS SATURDAY NA!
Ang pinagsama-sama ang Asia's Songbird sa unang pagtatagisan ng singing competition from Hollywood!

NGAYONG HAPON NA, PAGKATAPOS NG SOP!
Sakyan ang search for the Next Total Performer!

AMAZING ANG AUGUST 19!
KamangHAMAZING moments with Bong Revilla Jr.!

TODO-TODO NA RIN ANG PANANABIK SA PAPARATING PANG MGA BIGATING PALABAS!

TODO-TODONG HANDOG PARA SA'YO KAPUSO!